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AMSTERDAM

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AMSTERDAM

POCKET MAP & GUIDE

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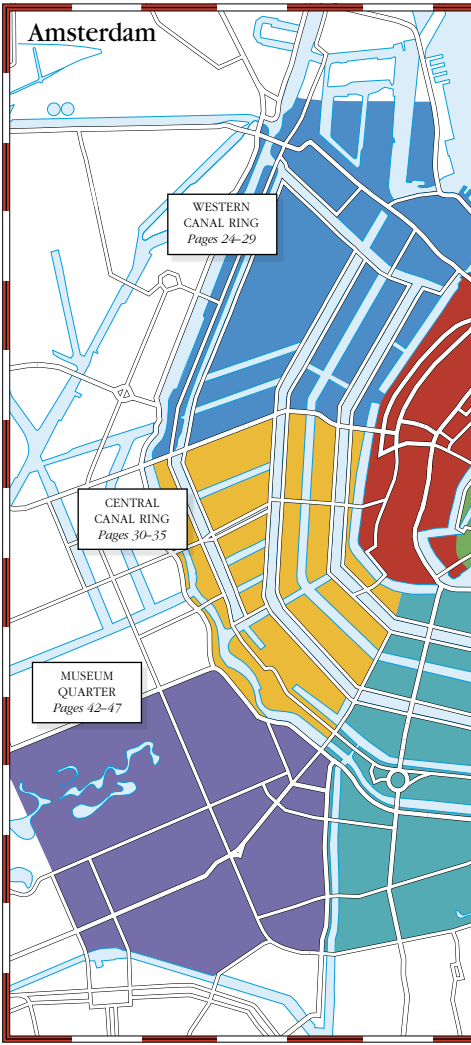
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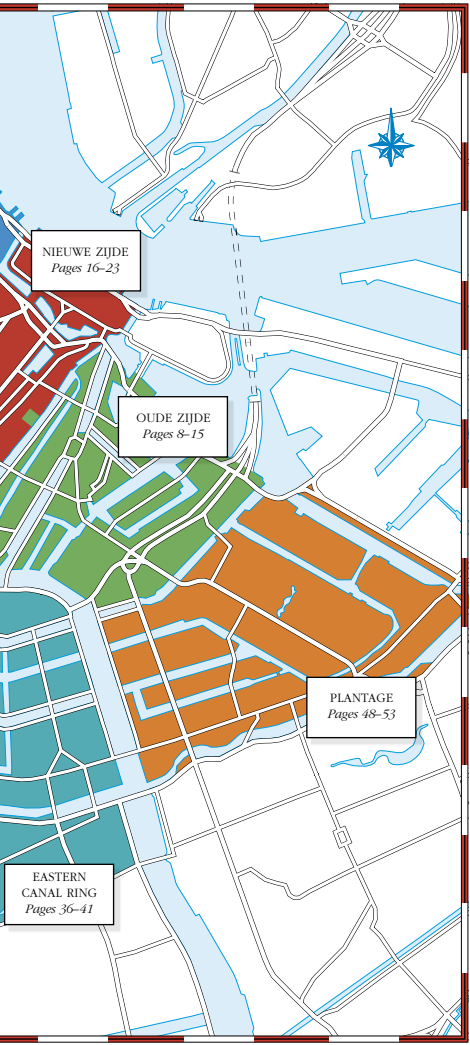
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AMSTERDAM

POCKET GUIDE

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People sitting on the Terrace of Cafe De Jaren

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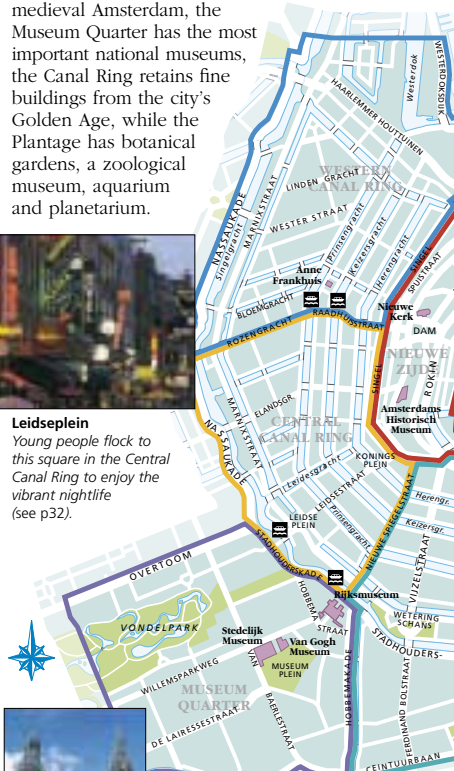
Holland, Amsterdam, Centraal Station Clock

Central Amsterdam

This guide divides central Amsterdam into seven areas, containing most of the city's sights. The Oude Zijde and Nieuwe Zijde make up medieval Amsterdam, the Museum Quarter has the most important national museums, the Canal Ring retains fine buildings from the city's Golden Age, while the Plantage has botanical gardens, a zoological museum, aquarium and planetarium.

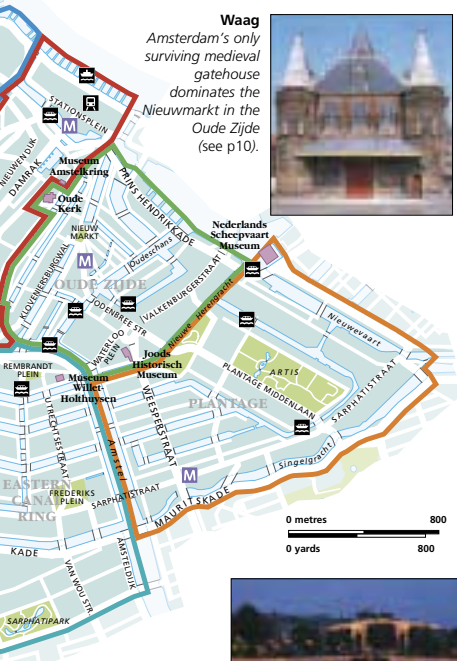
Leidseplein
Young people flock to this square in the Central Canal Ring to enjoy the vibrant nightlife (see p32).



Rijksmuseum
This Neo-Gothic building in the Museum Quarter houses the Dutch national art collection (see p44).

Superb Skyline
The Nieuwe Zijde's skyline is pierced by the Neo-Gothic spire of Magna Plaza, the steeples of the Nieuwe Kerk and the statues on the Koninklijk Paleis (see pp16–23).

Waag
Amsterdam's only surviving medieval gatehouse dominates the Nieuwmarkt in the Oude Zijde (see p10).



Magere Brug
On the Eastern Canal Ring, this is Amsterdam's best-known bridge (see p39).

KEY

- Ferry port
- Museum boat boarding point
- Metro station
- Train station

Amsterdam's Highlights

For such a small city, Amsterdam has a surprisingly large number of museums, housed in buildings of architectural and historic interest, as well as many magnificent churches. The city's spirit is embodied in its canals and waterways, spanned by many beautiful bridges, and with elegant houses.

Museums

Rijksmuseum
An unrivalled collection of paintings by Dutch masters are housed in this stunning Neo-Gothic landmark. The country's largest national museum, it first opened in 1885 (*see p44*).

Van Gogh Museum
The museum, built in 1973, holds the bulk of the troubled artist's paintings and drawings, plus letters to his brother. The large, stark building is based on a design by De Stijl architect Gerrit Rietveld (*see p45*).

Stedelijk Museum
The national museum of modern art displays a dynamic collection of works by leading artists, including Mondrian, Picasso and Chagall, from the mid-19th century, through the De Stijl movement to the present day (*see p45*).

Museum Amstelkring
The elegant rooms of this restored 17th-century canal house display a wealth of church silver, religious artefacts, paintings and even a secret Catholic church in the upper two storeys (*see pp20–1*).

Anne Frank's picture display in her room in the Anne Frankhuis

Anne Frankhuis
Almost a million visitors a year come to this poignant museum where Anne Frank and her family were in hiding from the Nazis during World War II (*see p26*).

Canals and Waterways

Herengracht
Amsterdam's grandest canal (the Gentleman's Canal) was famous in the 1600s for its Golden Bend, a stretch of canal between Leidsestraat and Vijzelstaat lined with the superb mansions of wealthy merchants and politicians (*see p34*).

Keizergracht
The central canal (the Emperor's Canal) of the Grachtengordel has fine tree-lined stretches between Brouwersgracht and Raadhuisstraat. The best

Stedelijk Museum

view is from the sixth-floor café of Metz & Co at Leidsestraat (*see p33*).

Prinsengracht

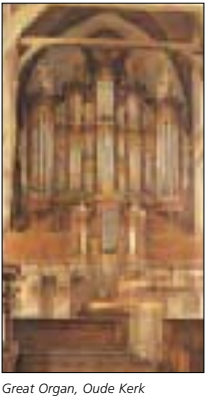
The best way to see all the beautiful buildings along Amsterdam's longest 17th-century canal (the Prince's Canal) is by bicycle. Stop off for the many cafés and art galleries in the area (*see pp26, 33*).

Entrepotdok

The quayside of these old warehouses, redeveloped in the 1980s, are now lined with lively cafés overlooking an array of brightly-coloured houseboats and herons dozing on the water's edge (*see p51*).

Reguliersgracht

The canal linking Herengracht, Keizergracht and Prinsengracht was originally designed to be a street. Seven hump-backed stone bridges cross the pretty 1664 canal, with its numerous crooked, but characterful brick buildings.



Great Organ, Oude Kerk

Matching houses on Herengracht

Churches

Oude Kerk

The stark interior of this mighty Gothic basilica, the city's oldest church, still contains its exquisite stained glass and world-famous organ (*see pp12–13*).

Nieuwe Kerk

All the Dutch monarchs have been crowned here since 1814. Feast your eyes on an elaborate interior that boasts many ornate, flamboyant features (*see p18*).

Westerkerk

Stunning views justify the climb up the city's tallest tower (82 m/272 ft), which is topped by an Imperial Crown (*see p26*).

Zuiderkerk

The Renaissance style of the city's first Calvinist church, with its decorative clocks, spire and onion dome, make it a prominent landmark (*see p11*).

Noorderkerk

The North Church was the first in the city to be constructed like a Greek cross, so that everyone in the congregation could see the central pulpit (*see p28*).

OUDE ZIJDE

The eastern half of Amsterdam is called the Oude Zijde (Old Side). The area was once an important commercial centre, with boats sailing up the Geldersekade to Nieuwmarkt. At its heart is Oude Kerk, the city's oldest chruch.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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KEY
- Tram stop
- Metro station
- Museum boat boarding point

SEE ALSO
- *Street Life p15*

0 metres 400
0 yards 400

◀ *Items on sale at the Waterlooplein flea market*

Entrance to one of the clubs in the Red Light District

Red Light District 1

Map F3.

Prostitutes touting for clients at their windows is one of Amsterdam's defining images. The district is criss-crossed by narrow lanes, with sex shops and seedy clubs. By day a festive buzz envelops the cafés, bars, restaurants and canalside houses, but at night it is best to keep to the main streets.

Waag and Nieuwmarkt 2

Map F3. Nieuwmarkt. Waag: closed to the public. Nieuwmarkt: Sun antiques market, May–Sep; Sat organic market, all year.

Amsterdam's oldest surviving gatehouse (1488), the multi-turreted Waag towers over Nieuwmarkt square. To the west the area is flanked by the Red Light District and, with the top end of the Geldersekade, it forms the city's Chinatown. Leading off it, down St Antoniesbreestraat, is the old Jewish Quarter. The square still retains many 17th- and 18th-century gabled houses.

Hash Marijuana Hemp Museum 3

Map E3. Oudezijds Achterburgwal. Open daily. Adm charge.

This museum is the only one in Europe to chart the history of hemp (marijuana). Exhibits refer back 8,000 years to early Asiatic civilizations that used it for medicines and clothing. Other exhibits include an intriguing array of pipes and bongs (smoking devices), smuggling methods and a cultivation area where plants are grown under artificial light.

Agnietenkapel 4

Map E4. Oudezijds Voorburgwal. Closed for renovations until 2007.

Home to the University Museum, the Agnietenkapel dates from 1470. Despite periods of restoration and secular use, the building still has the feel of a Franciscan chapel. The large, first-floor auditorium, the city's oldest, has a lovely ceiling, painted with Renaissance motifs and a portrait of Minerva, Roman goddess of the arts.

The 15th-century Waag dominates the paved square of Nieuwmarkt

Oostindisch Huis

Oostindisch Huis 5

Map F3. Oude Hoogstraat. Open Tue–Wed, unless there is a graduation ceremony.

Seen from the courtyard, the impressive red-brick façade, with its ornate entrance and stone-dressed windows, was once the headquarters of the Dutch East India Company (VOC). Built in 1605, it is now part of the University of Amsterdam. The 17th-century meeting room of the VOC lords has been restored.

Trippenhuis 6

Map F3. Kloveniersburgwal. Closed to the public.

This ornate Classical 1662 mansion appears to be one house but, in fact, is two. The façade, outlined by eight Corinthian columns, features false windows in the middle. It was designed for wealthy arms merchants, and hence the chimneys look like cannons. The Trippenhuis now houses the Dutch Academy.

Zuiderkerk 7

Map F4. Zuiderkerkhof. Open Mon–Fri. Tower open Wed–Sat, Jun–Sep; by appt, Oct–May. Adm charge.

The Renaissance-style (1603) Zuiderkerk was the city's first Calvinist church. The spire, with its columns, clocks and onion dome, is a prominent landmark. After its 1988 restoration, it is a public housing show centre.

The spire of the Zuiderkerk, a prominent city landmark

Museum Het Rembrandthuis 8

Map F4. Jodenbreestraat. Open daily, except 1 Jan. Adm charge.

Rembrandt worked and taught in this house from 1639 to 1656. Many of his most famous paintings were created in the first-floor studio. Its fine collection of drawings includes various self-portraits in different moods and guises. The interior, restored to its former glory, has objects from the mid-1600s. A new wing contains a small shop and two floors for exhibitions.

Oude Kerk ⓮

The city's oldest monument and first parish church, stands on the site of an early 13th-century church. Rebuilt in the 14th-century, it has expanded into a mighty Gothic basilica. The interior is stark, stripped of its treasures after the Alteration in 1578, but it boasts a gilded ceiling, exquisite stained glass and a famous organ.

The Bell-tower's Spire *dates from 1565, and contains a 47-bell carillon, added 1658.*

The Oak-encased Great Organ *(1724) has eight bellows and 54 gilded pipes.*

Christening Chapel

Tomb of Admiral Abraham van der Hulst (1619–66)

The Oude Kerk *is a peaceful haven at the heart of the Red Light District.*

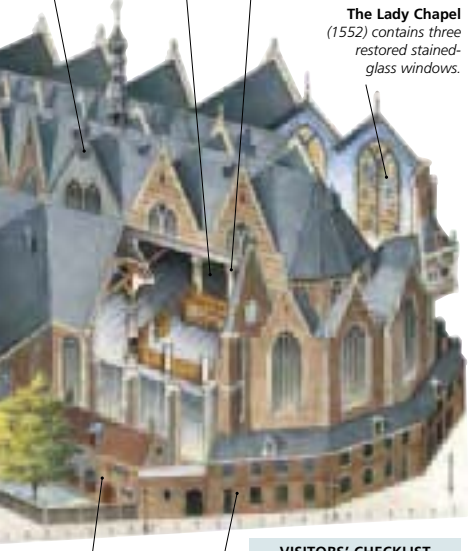
The Red Door's *lintel reads: "Marry in haste, repent at leisure".*

The Gilded Ceiling *decorates the delicate 15th-century vault.*

The Decorated Pillars, *relics of the period before 1578, were painted to look like brocade.*

The Lady Chapel *(1552) contains three restored stained-glass windows.*

Tomb of Admiral Jacob van Heemskerk (1567–1607)



17th- and 18th-century houses

Former sacristy

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Map F3. Oudekerksplein. Church open daily. Tower open by appt (tel 689 2565) except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

Waterlooplein 9

Map F4. Holland Experience open daily. Adm charge. Market open Mon–Sat.

This large market square was created in 1882 in the heart of the Jewish quarter. It is now the setting for the Holland Experience, a spectacular multimedia show taking visitors on a 30-minute tour of the country. At its north end is the city's best flea market.

The Star of David, worn by all Jews during the Nazi occupation

Joods Historisch Museum 10

Map F4. Nieuwe Amstelstraat. Open daily except Yom Kippur. Adm charge.

This complex of four synagogues was built in the 17th and 18th centuries by Ashkenazi Jews, but the buildings lay empty after the devastation of World War II. Restored, and opened in 1987 as a museum, they are linked by glass-covered internal walkways, with displays covering Jewish art, culture, religious artefacts and the diamond industry. There are also some remarkable exhibits bringing home the horrors of the Holocaust.

Portugees-Israëlitische Synagoge 11

Map G4. Mr Visserplein. Open Sun–Fri, Apr–Oct except Jewish holidays. Adm charge.

Built in 1675 for the Portuguese Sephardic community, this huge building contains the Holy Ark facing Jerusalem and the *tebah* (podium) opposite. The wooden, barrel-vaulted ceiling is supported by four Ionic columns. The interior is illuminated by 1,000 candles and 72 windows.

Pintohuis 12

Map F4. Sint Antoniesbreestraat. Library open Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat except public hols. Free.

Now a public library, the Pintohuis is named after the Portuguese merchant Isaac de Pinto who paid an exorbitant 30,000 guilders for it in 1651. He had it remodelled to an Italianate style by Elias Bouman. The cornice is topped by a blind balustrade hiding the roof and inside, the ceiling is painted with birds and cherubs.

Six imposing pilasters break up the cream façade of the Pintohuis

The medieval Montelbaanstoren, with its open-work timber steeple

Montelbaanstoren ⓭

Map G3. Oude Waal/Oudeschans. Closed to the public.

Begun in 1512, this tower formed part of the city's medieval fortifications. The octagonal upper structure and timber steeple were added in 1606. A gathering place for sailors bound for the East Indies, it appears in many Rembrandt etchings. It is still a popular subject for artists and now houses the city's water authority.

Oude Kerk ⓮

See pp12–13.

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

Bird
Map F3. Zeedijk 72.
Tel 020 620 1442.
Moderate
The tastiest Thai food in town

Café Roux
Map E3. The Grand Hotel, Oudezijds Voorburgwal 197.
Tel 020 555 3560.
Moderate
Inspired dishes with a fine French touch.

De Bekeerde Suster
Map F4. Kloveniersburgwal 6–8. Tel 020 626 6280.
Fine restaurant in former cloister.

Café de Sluyswacht
Map F4. Jodenbreestraat 1.
Tel 020 625 7611.
A former lock-keeper's house with a canal-side terrace.

See p80 for price codes.

BARS AND CAFÉS

Engelbewaarder
Map F4. Kloveniersburgwal 59.
Classic "brown café".

Freddy's Bar
Map E4. Hotel De l'Europe, Nieuwe Doelenstraat 2–8.
Ideal for a classy, pre-dinner drink.

VOC Café
Map F3. Prins Hendrikkade 94–95.
Traditional-style bar.

SHOPPING

Capsicum Natuurstoffen
Map F3. Oude Hoogstraat 1.
Gorgeous printed and embroidered silks, linens and cottons.

Jacob Hooy & Co
Map F4. Kloveniersburgwal 12.
Best place for herbs, homeopathic remedies, tea and essential oils.

BLOKKER
ATHENA
PRO

NIEUWE ZIJDE

The western side of medieval Amsterdam was known as Nieuwe Zijde (New Side). Along with Oude Zijde it formed the heart of the early maritime settlement. As the city grew, it expanded eastwards, leaving Nieuwe Zijde in decline. Much of the area was rebuilt in the mid-1400s.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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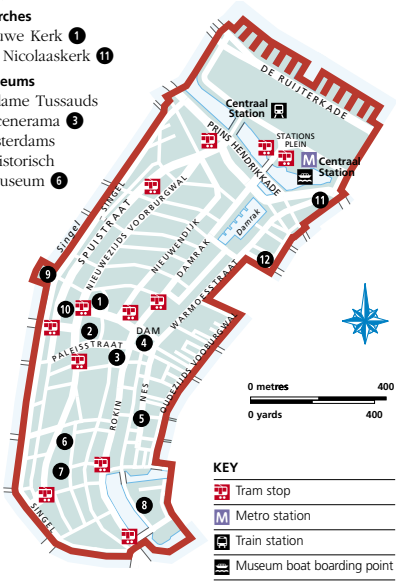
SEE ALSO

- *Street Life p23*



◀ *Kalverstraat, the main shopping street of the city*

Nieuwe Kerk 1

Map E3. Dam. Open during exhibitions only. Adm charge.

Since 1814, all Dutch monarchs have been crowned here. Dating from the 1300s, Amsterdam's second parish church was built to replace the smaller Oude Kerk, but it had to be rebuilt after the great fire of 1645. Its magnificent interior boasts an elaborate gilded organ, a flamboyantly carved pulpit, an ornate three-tiered brass candelabra and superb stained-glass windows. Today it is also a cultural centre.

Koninklijk Paleis 2

Map E3. Dam. Opening times vary. Adm charge.

This stark Classical edifice, begun in 1648, was built as the Stadhuis (town hall). Its magnificence is best seen in the vast Burgerzaal (citizen's hall); it boasts a marble floor inlaid with maps of the hemispheres, epic sculptures and ornate ceilings. Most of the furniture dates from 1808, when Louis Napoleon named it as his royal palace.

Classical façade of Koninklijk Paleis

Madame Tussauds Scenerama 3

Map E3. Peek & Cloppenburg Building, Dam. Open daily Sep–Jun except 30 Apr. Adm charge.

Displays at this outpost of the London waxworks range from fascinating to bizarre, such as the animated 5-m (16-ft) figure of "Amsterdam Man", but the wax models of 17th-century people give an insight into life in the Golden Age. There is also an audiovisual tour of the city's history.

One of the two heraldic stone lions on the Nationaal Monument

Nationaal Monument 4

Map E3. Dam.

Sculpted by John Raedecker and designed by JJP Oud, the 22-m (70-ft) obelisk in the Dam commemorates Dutch World War II casualties. Unveiled in 1956, it is fronted by two lions, heraldic symbols of the Netherlands. Embedded in the wall behind are urns containing earth from all the Dutch provinces plus the former Dutch colonies of Indonesia, the Antilles and Surinam.

Two churches and one of the few remaining wooden houses in the city nestle in the secluded, tree-filled courtyard of Begijnhof

Nes 5

Map E4.

This quiet, narrow street is home to several theatres. In 1614, Amsterdam's first bank opened in a pawnshop at No. 57. A wall plaque marks the site, and pawned goods still clutter the shop window. At night, Nes can be a dangerous place for the unguarded visitor.

Wall plaques and maps in the Amsterdams Historisch Museum

Amsterdams Historisch Museum 6

Map E4. Kalverstraat, Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal, St Luciensteeg. Open daily except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

A fascinating collection of artefacts, archaeological finds, clothes, jewellery, paintings, sculptures and maps are housed in this former red brick convent and, from 1580, civic orphanage.

Begijnhof 7

Map E4. Spui. Gates open mid-Sep to mid-Apr. Free.

This bewitching sanctuary of elegant houses around a tranquil green was founded in 1346 for the Begijntjes, a lay Catholic sisterhood who lived like nuns. It features rows of beautiful houses, including the city's oldest at No. 34, fascinating wall plaques with biblical themes, the lovely Engelse Kerk and an appealing hidden chapel with superb stained glass and paintings.

Allard Pierson Museum 8

Map E4. Oude Turfmarkt. Open Tue–Sun & public hols except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, Easter Sun & Mon, Ascension Day, 30 Apr, Whitsun. Adm charge.

Amsterdam's only specialist archaeological collection is housed in this handsome Neo-Classical building. The Cypriot, Greek, Egyptian, Roman, Etruscan and Coptic artefacts include a gruesome Egyptian mummy, a computer letting you write your name in hieroglyphics, a jointed Greek doll from 300 BC and some fine Roman jewellery.

Museum Amstelkring ⓬

On the edge of the Red Light District is a restored 17th-century canal house, with two smaller houses to the rear. The upper storeys conceal a secret Catholic church, built in 1663. After the Alteration, when Amsterdam officially became Protestant, many such churches were built. A museum since 1888, it houses a fine collection of church silver, religious artefacts and paintings.

The Façade *has a simple spout gable.*

A Priest's Tiny Box Bedroom *is hidden off a bend in the stairs.*

Wooden viewing gallery of church

The Parlour *is a fine example of 17th-century Dutch Classical style*

Main entrance

Reception room in late 19th-century style

House on the canal

The Original Clandestine Church *served the Catholic community until St Nicolaaskerk was finished in 1887 (*see p22*).*

Sacristy

The Baptism of Christ (1716), *hanging above the mock marble altar, is one of three interchangeable altar paintings.*

The Tiny Wooden Confessional *was the living room of the rear house.*

Rear house

Middle house

The 17th-century Kitchen, *originally part of the sacristan's secret living quarters, has Delft tiles, fireplace and black-and-white floor.*

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Map F3. Oudezijds Voorburgwal. Open daily & public hols except 1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

The Torensluis, one of Amsterdam's widest bridges, overlooked by some of the Singel's finest canal houses

Torensluis 9

Map E3. Singel between Torensteeg and Oude Leliestraat.

One of the city's widest bridges, built on the site of a 17th-century sluice gate, it had a jail built into its foundations. In summer, sit at café tables on the bridge and enjoy the views of the fine houses along the Singel. The statue of Multatuli, a 19th-century Dutch writer, dominates the bridge.

Magna Plaza 10

Map E3. Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal. Open daily except public hols.

A post office has been sited here since 1748. The present Neo-Gothic building of 1899 was much criticized for its elaborately decorated style and spindly towers. In 1990 it opened as the city's first shopping mall, the Magna Plaza. The grand dimensions and arched galleries of the original design have been well preserved.

Sint Nicolaaskerk 11

Map F2. Prins Hendrikkade. Open daily. Free.

The twin towers of the 1887 church's forbidding exterior dominate the skyline. Its monumental interior was recently enlivened by the replacement of the stained-glass windows in the dome. Sint Nicolaas was the patron saint of seafarers, and thus an important icon in Amsterdam. The main day for giving presents in the Netherlands, 5 December, is known as Sinterklaasavond.

Neo-Renaissance façade of the Sint Nicolaaskerk

Museum Amstelkring 12

See pp20–1.

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

Green Planet
Map E3. *Spuistraat 122.*
Tel 020 625 8280.
Moderate
Bright, modern vegetarian café-restaurant. Perfect for a quick snack or hearty meal.

De Vijff Vlieghen
Map E3. Spuistraat 294.
Tel 020 530 4060.
Moderate
Each room has a theme, including the Rembrandt Room. New Dutch cuisine.

BARS AND CAFÉS

Absinthe
Map E4. Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 171.
Sample La Fée Verte (The Green Fairy) if you dare. Late-opening lounge bar.

Al's Place
Map E3. Nieuwendijk 10.
Authentic British fish 'n' chips, with tabloids, ketchup and brown sauce.

Bar Bep
Map E4. Nieuwezijds Vooburgwal 260.
This small lounge bar, with its guest DJs, will get you in the mood for a long night out on the town.

Het Schuim
Map E3. Spuistraat 189.
Art meets alcohol at this large rustic-style bar. Food served until 10pm.

Hoppe
Map E4. Spui 18.
Dark, wooden interior, the very essence of a classic "brown café".

De Jaren
Map E4. Nieuwe Doelenstraat 20.
Light and airy grand-café with wood and glass interior. Salad bar. Canal-side terrace. Cash is the only currency accepted at this former bank.

De Still
Map E3. Spuistraat 326.
Around 600 whiskies (mostly rare malts) at this bar, which also runs an annual whisky festival.

Supperclub
Map E3. Jonge Roelensteeg 21.
Decadent lounge bar in basement of this hip restaurant.

Villa Zeezicht
Map D4. Torensteeg 7.
With wooded warmth and charm, this relaxed corner café overlooks the wide cobbled Singel bridge.

SHOPPING

Housewives on Fire
Map E3. Spuistraat 102.
All-in-one store for complete makeover. Funky hair styles and a good selection of clubbers' clothes.

P G C Hajenius
Map E4. Rokin 92–96.
One of Europe's most famous cigar houses. A must for all cigar connoisseurs. Great Art Deco interior.

De Bierkoning
Map E3. Paleisstraat 125.
"The Beer King" has a fantastic range of 1,000 beers from around the world.

See p80 for price codes.

GRIETJE

WESTERN CANAL RING

Encapsulating Amsterdam's relaxed yet stylish air, this area grew up as a working class district when construction of the Canal Ring began in the 1600s. It is famous for its almshouses (*hofjes*), the narrow streets of the Jordaan district and to the north, the characterful Western Islands.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Historic Buildings, Monuments and Streets
The Jordaan 1
Huis met de Hoofden 5

Museums
Theatermuseum 2
Anne Frankhuis 4
Pianola en Piano Museum 11

Canals and Islands
Egelantiersgracht 6
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Brouwersgracht 12
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Churches
Noorderkerk and Noordermarkt 10
Westerkerk 3

Hofjes
Claes Claeszhofje 8
De Star and Zon's Hofje 9

SEE ALSO
- *Street Life p29*

View of Prinsengracht with its densely packed houseboats

The Jordaan 1

Map C3.

West of the *Grachtengordel* (Canal Ring), the Jordaan still retains a network of narrow, characterful streets and charming, tree-lined canals. Among the 17th-century workers' houses are quirky shops, lively brown cafés and bars, as well as grand churches and museums.

Façade of Theatermuseum

Theatermuseum 2

Map D3. Herengracht. Open daily except 1 Jan, 30 Apr, 25 Dec. Adm charge.

Two fine buildings house a collection of costumes, sets and memorabilia. Visitors can play with antique sound effects and create a storm. Entrance is in the Neo-Classical White House (No. 168), built 1638. Inside are a magnificent spiral staircase, stuccowork and rich ceiling paintings. It extends into Bartolotti House (built 1617), Nos. 170–172. Its elaborate Renaissance façade contrasts sharply with the austere White House.

Westerkerk 3

Map D3. Prinsengracht. Open Mon–Sat, Easter–Sep (Aug–Sep only, except during services). Tower open Mon–Sat, Apr–Sep; Oct–Mar by appt. Adm charge.

At 85 m (272 ft), this church (1620) boasts Amsterdam's tallest tower. It also has the largest nave of any Dutch Protestant church. Rembrandt was buried here but his grave has never been found. The painted organ shutters depict scenes of King David and the Queen of Sheba. There are stunning views from the top of the tower.

Anne Frankhuis 4

Map D3. Prinsengracht. Open daily except Yom Kippur. Adm charge.

During World War II, the Frank and Van Daan families, both Jewish, hid here until their betrayal to the Nazis. Visitors climb to the second floor, entering the annexe via the revolving bookcase that concealed its entrance.

Inside Anne Frankhuis

Huis met de Hoofden

Huis met de Hoofden 5

Map D2. Keizersgracht. Closed to the public.

Built in 1622, the Huis met de Hoofden takes its name from the six Classical busts (of Apollo, Ceres, Mars, Minerva, Bacchus and Diana) on pilasters along the façade. It houses the Stichting Monumenten en Archeologie, which supervises public monuments.

Egelantiersgracht 6

Map D2.

This charming canal in the Jordaan was cut in the 1600s along a drainage ditch. Its houses, built for artisans, are more intimate than the grand mansions found along Herengracht or Prinsengracht. Demand for canalside residences here has boomed.

The tree-lined Egelantiersgracht

Bloemgracht 7

Map C3.

The centre for dye and paint manufacture in the 1600s, this quiet canal has fine gable houses along its banks. The most beautiful are the three houses at Nos. 87 to 91. Built in 1642, they feature stepped gables and a strong use of glass. Their gable stones depict a farmer, a townsman and a seaman.

Bikes and boats along the tranquil Bloemgracht

Claes Claeszhofje 8

Map D2. Egelantiersdwarsstraat. Open on & off. Free.

This is a group of *hofjes*, the earliest dating from 1616 and owned by a textile merchant, Claes Claesz Anslo. One of the oldest and most distinctive is "Huis met de Schrijvende Hand" (house with the writing hand) at Egelantiersstraat 52. It dates from the 1630s.

The lush garden in the courtyard of De Star hofje

De Star Hofje and Zon's Hofje 9

Map D2. Prinsengracht. Open sporadically. Free.

De Star *hofje*, built in 1804 on the Star Brewery site, is officially called Van Brienen *hofje*. Its peaceful courtyard has a lovely flower garden. Zon's *hofje* was built on the site of a clandestine church known as Noah's Ark.

Noorderkerk and Noordermarkt 10

Map D2. Noordermarkt. Church open Sat–Mon. Free. Flea market open Mon; Boerenmarkt (organic fruit and vegetables) open Sat.

The North Church was the first in the city to be built in the shape of a Greek cross. A sculpture commemorates the 1934 Jordaanoproer (Jordaan Riot). On the south façade a plaque recalls the Nazis' deportation of Jews. Since 1627, the surrounding square has been the site of a flea market. On Saturdays fabrics, beds and bedding are sold, and on Mondays it is the turn of small animals, health foods, candles and and ethnic crafts.

Visitors to the Saturday morning fair in Noordermarkt

Pianola en Piano Museum 11

Map D2. Westerstraat. Open Sun (Mon–Sat by appt only). Adm charge.

Fifteen instruments and 15,000 piano rolls are on show here, celebrating the automatic pianos introduced in 1900. Regular performances are given, often with live pianists.

A houseboat on Brouwersgracht

Brouwersgracht 12

Map D1.

Brouwersgracht (Brewers' Canal) was named after the breweries sited here in the 17th and 18th centuries. Today the residences look out onto houseboats. Prime examples of these buildings, with their spout gables and shutters, can be seen at Nos. 188 to 194. Ooievaar, the area's last distillery, is off Brouwersgracht on Drie-

hoekstraat (Triangle street). The Dutch gin, *jenever*, has been made here since 1782.

Western Islands ⓭

Map D1.

The three islands were built on the IJ in the early 1600s to provide for warehouses and shipyards. Many period houses have survived. Bickerseiland is a mix of colourful apartment blocks on one side, with tugs and houseboats on the other. Realeneiland has one of the prettiest spots, the waterside street of Zandhoek. Here, a row of 17th-century houses overlook the sailboats moored along Westerdok. Prinseneiland, the smallest island, is dominated by characterful warehouses; many are now apartments.

Plaque with shipping motif on a house in Zandhoek, Realeneiland

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

Balraj
Map D1. Haarlemmerdijk 28.
Tel 020 625 1428.
Moderate
Some of the best Indian food in town.

Foodism
Map D3. Oude Leliestraat 8.
Tel 020 427 5103.
Cheap
Delicious, healthy food, including vegetarian.

Spanjer & Van Twist
Map D3. Leliegracht 60.
Tel 020 639 0109.
Moderate
Perfect place to rest your weary feet. Grab the second-floor window seat.

BARS AND CAFÉS

't Arendsnest
Map E2. Herengracht 90.
Over 130 types of Dutch beer, with several on tap. Informal tasting sessions last Sunday of each month.

Finch
Map D2. Noordermarkt 5.
Small, popular watering-hole on edge of scenic square, which the hip local clientele spill onto in summer.

De Reiger
Map C3. Nieuwe Leliestraat 34.
King of the eetcafés. *Join the contented locals to eat good food, knock back the wine and just chat.*

SHOPPING

Back Beat
Map D2. Egelantiersstraat 19.
New and second-hand record and CD shop specializing in jazz, soul, funk and R&B. Rare collector's items, too.

Donald E Jongejans
Map D2. Noorderkerkstraat 18.
Vintage frames specialist selling a fascinating selection of eyewear, dating from the 1800s onwards.

See p80 for price codes.

CENTRAL CANAL RING

Amsterdam's three major canals, Herengracht, Keizersgracht and Prinsengracht, are at their most impressive in this central section of the *Grachtengordel*. Opulent buildings abound, and cutting through the area is the main thoroughfare, Leidsestraat, and the bustling Leidseplein.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Historic Buildings and Monuments
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De Melkweg 3
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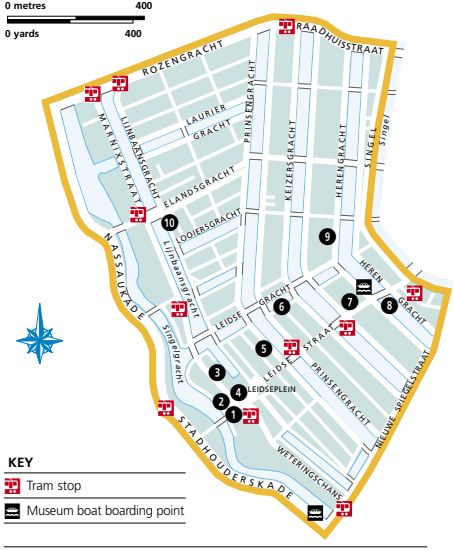
Leidseplein 1
Leidsegracht 6
Golden Bend 8

SEE ALSO

• *Street Life p35*



Cyclist crossing one of the many bridges on Leidsegracht

Leidseplein 1

Map D5.

Amsterdam's busiest square is also a busy tram intersection. Each day it buzzes with fire-eaters, buskers and other street performers. It is also popular with pickpockets. At night, the young hang out in the bars, cafés, restaurants, nightclubs and cinemas around the square.

American Hotel 2

Map D5. Leidsekade.

The design of this 1902 hotel interpreted the Art Nouveau style in an angular Dutch fashion. The turreted exterior and elaborate brickwork anticipated the progressive Amsterdam School. The Café Americain, decorated in Art Deco style, remains one of the most elegant in Amsterdam. It retains its period furnishings and stained-glass windows.

The American Hotel seen from Singelgracht

De Melkweg 3

Map D5. Lijnbaansgracht. Box office open daily. Performances 8.30pm approx. Adm charge.

The multimedia centre De Melkweg (Milky Way) opened in 1970. It offers a wide range of entertainment, including live music, theatre, dance, film, video and a photographic gallery. The theatre has a stage for new international acts. Its annual Amsterdam Roots Festival promotes the latest in world music.

De Melkweg's star-lit façade

Stadsschouwburg 4

Map D5. Leidseplein. Box office open Mon–Sat. Adm charge.

This ornate Neo-Renaissance building (its two predecessors burned down) houses the city's municipal theatre. It stages plays by local groups, such as resident Toneelgroep Amsterdam, and international companies, including English-language productions. It is a favourite venue for Amsterdam's premier football club, Ajax, to greet their fans on the theatre's balcony. Currently, it is undergoing renovation.

The elongated Neo-Classical façade of the Paleis van Justitie, converted from the city orphanage

Paleis van Justitie 5

Map D5. Prinsengracht. Opening restricted. Free.

The former city orphanage was converted into the sober Empire-style Palace of Justice in 1829. Balustrades run along the roofline, and the imposing Neo-Classical façade is broken up by Corinthian pilasters. The building houses Amsterdam's Court of Appeal, and the courtrooms inside are set around two open yards.

Leidsegracht 6

Map D4.

The Leidsegracht was once the main route for barges from Amsterdam to Leiden. Cut in 1664, it is now one of the city's smartest addresses. Cornelis Lely, who drew up the original plans for draining the Zuiderzee, was born at No. 39 in 1854. A wall plaque shows Lely poised between the Zuiderzee and the newly created IJsselmeer.

No. 39 Leidsegracht, on the right

Metz & Co 7

Map D4. Leidsestraat. Open daily except public hols. Free.

On its completion in 1891, this was the tallest commercial building in Amsterdam at a height of 26 m (85 ft). It was designed by J van Looy and built for the New York Life Insurance Company. Since 1908, it has housed the luxury store Metz & Co. In 1933, a splendid glass cupola by Gerrit Rietveld was added. Liberty of London, which bought Metz & Co in 1973, renovated it and installed a café on the sixth floor. The views across the city from the café are superb.

The 1933 cupola of Metz & Co

Classical columns and façades are a feature of the Golden Bend

Golden Bend 8

Map D4. Herengracht open daily except public hols. Free.

In the 1600s, the Herengracht was called the Golden Bend because of its wealthy mansions. Many are now offices or banks. The earliest ones, dating from the 1660s, were faced with sandstone. One fine example is at No. 412. No. 475 is typical Louis XIV in style: built in 1730, it is called the jewel of canal houses. The Kattenkabinet (cat museum) at No. 497 Herengracht is accessible to the public.

Bijbels Museum 9

Map D4. Herengracht. Open daily except 1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

Founded in 1860, the first private collection of biblical artefacts was put on public display. In 1975, the museum was relocated in two 17th-century houses. Highlights include a copy of the Book of Isaiah from the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Delft Bible (1477) and two ceiling paintings by Jacob de Wit. Displays feature archaeological finds from Egypt and the Middle East and models of historical sites. There is also a lovely garden.

Looier Kunst en Antiekcentrum 10

Map C4. Elandsgracht. Open Sat–Thu except public hols.

The Looier Antiques Centre comprises a vast network of ground-floor rooms in a block of houses. Named after its site near Looiersgracht (tanners' canal), the market boasts the largest collection of art and antiques in the Netherlands. It has around 100 stalls selling everything from glassware to dolls. On Saturdays, anyone can rent a stall here and once a month the facility is rent-free. Lively bridge sessions, open to all, are always on the go.

Vintage robots on sale at the Looier Kunst en Antiekcentrum

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

Bojo
Map D5. Lange Leidsedwarsstraat 49–51.
Tel 020 622 7434.
Cheap
Informal Indonesian cuisine.

Dining Eleven
Map D3. Reestraat 11.
Tel 020 620 7968.
Moderate
Fantastic Mediterranean-inspired fish dishes. Meat-lovers also catered for.

Goodies
Map D4. Huidenstraat 9.
Tel 020 625 6122.
Moderate
Healthy soups, salads and sandwiches by day. Perfect pasta by night.

Noa
Map D4. Leidsegracht 84.
Tel 020 626 0802.
Moderate
Hip food at New York-style lounge bar with champagne and cocktails.

BARS AND CAFÉS

The Bar With No Name
Map D4. Wolvenstraat 23.
Affluent, trendy 1970s-style lounge bar-restaurant. Imaginative food from 6pm.

De Admiraal
Map D4. Herengracht 319.
One of the city's smarter proflokaalen *(tasting houses). Open 'til late.*

Het Land van Walem
Map D4. Keizersgracht 449.
Sip a champagne cocktail on the canal-side terrace at this trendy café.

Saarein II
Map C4. Elandsstraat 119. A quiet lesbian bar during the week, but rowdy at weekends. Good food available. Pool table.

SHOPPING

Frozen Fountain
Map D4. Prinsengracht 629–645.
Furniture and household products. Cutting-edge designs.

De Kaaskamer
Map D4. Runstraat 7.
Cheese with a capital C. Over 200 different kinds of one of Holland's best exports.

Fifties-Sixties
Map D4. Reestraat 5.
Kitsch selection of designer toasters, lava lamps and lighting from the 1950s and 60s.

Pompadour
Map D4. Huidenstraat 12.
Chic chocolaterie. Home-made chocolates and exquisite tarts.

Sound of the Fifties
Map D4. Prinsengracht 669
Unique shop selling rare and collectable 1950s vinyl.

Zinne & Minne
Map D4. Wolvenstraat 14.
Sensuous pampering. Massage oils, aphrodisiacs and playful bedtime games.

Zipper
Map D4. Huidenstraat 7.
Vintage second-hand clothes and accessories.

See p80 for price codes.

EASTERN CANAL RING

Stretching south from Munttoren, this area lies beyond the medieval city wall. Grand houses on the major canal ring convey a sense of life in the Golden Age. Beyond is the 19th-century multicultural district of De Pijp, now home to Albert Cuypmarkt, the city's biggest street market.

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Historic Buildings and Bridges
Blauwbrug 3
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Squares and Markets
Rembrandtplein 1
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Museum Willet-Holthuysen 2
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Heineken Experience 8
Museum van Loon 9

Cinemas
Tuschinski Theater 10

SEE ALSO

- *Street Life p41*

Colourful display of flowers at the Albert Cuypmarkt

Two of the many outdoor cafés on Rembrandtplein

Rembrandtplein 1

Map E4.

Formerly called Botermarkt (butter market), this square was renamed after a statue of Rembrandt was erected in 1876. Rembrandtplein soon became a centre for nightlife. The Mille Colonnes Hotel dates from 1889, the Schiller Karena hotel and Café Schiller from 1892. De Kroon, the epitome of a typical grand café, dates from 1898. Rembrandtplein is as popular as ever. During the summer, the café terraces are packed with people enjoying a drink and watching the world go by.

Museum Willet-Holthuysen 2

Map F5. Herengracht. Open daily except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

Named after its last residents, this 1685 museum allows a glimpse of how the merchant class lived in luxury along the *Grachtengordel* (Canal Ring). In 1895, the house and its many treasures of paintings, glass, silver and ceramics were left to the city. Some of the rooms remain unchanged, but others, such as the kitchen and Garden Room, have been restored in 18th-century style.

Blauwbrug 3

Map F4. Amstel.

In the 1600s, the Blauwbrug (Blue Bridge) may have been named after the colour of the original wooden bridge over this stretch of the Amstel. The present stone structure was built for the 1883 World Exhibition in Amsterdam. The bridge, surmounted by ornate lamps, is adorned with sculptures of medieval boats, fish and the city's imperial crown. The design was inspired by Paris's Alexander III bridge.

Blauwbrug is adorned with sculptures on nautical and maritime themes

Six Collection

Six Collection 4

Map F4. Amstel. Closed for renovation.

The Six Collection houses furniture, silverware, porcelain and fine paintings, collected in the 1600s by one of the city's richest men, Jan Six, friend and patron of Rembrandt. Several of his paintings are among the treasures of the extensive art collection: *Portrait of Jan Six* (1654), considered to be the artist's finest portrait, and *Portrait of Anna Wijmer*.

Magere Brug 5

Map F5. Amstel.

Of Amsterdam's 1,400 bridges, Magere Brug (Skinny Bridge) is probably the best known. The original drawbridge (built 1670) may have been named after the two Mager sisters, who lived either side of the Amstel, or for its narrow (*mager*) design. The present drawbridge was built in 1969.

Amstelkerk 6

Map E5. Amstelveld. Open Mon–Fri except public hols. Free.

Originally, the wooden, Neo-Gothic Amstelkerk (1668) was meant to be temporary. Not until 1840 was its plain interior renovated: pulpit, walls, pews and organ date from this period, but the windows date from 1821. In the 1980s, the Amstelkerk was converted, with offices installed inside. Services and concerts are still held here, and the nave, preserved in its Neo-Gothic magnificence, houses the fine Janvier restaurant.

The Amstelkerk, built as a temporary church in the 17th century

Smoked fish in Albert Cuypmarkt

Albert Cuypmarkt 7

Map E6. Albert Cuypstraat. Open Mon–Sat.

The market attracts some 20,000 visitors on weekdays, many more on Saturdays. The 325 stalls sell anything from fish, poultry, cheese, fruit and vegetables to clothes. Prices are among the city's cheapest.

Heineken Experience 8

Map E6. Stadhouderskade. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

The Heineken company was founded in 1864. The original Stadhouderskade building was built in 1867, where beer was produced until 1988. The Heineken Reception Centre shows visitors the tiled brewhouse, with its enormous brewing coppers, and the renovated stables where the splendid heavy dray horses are once more on show.

Museum van Loon 9

Map E5. Keizersgracht. Open Fri–Mon and daily Jul, Aug except public hols. Adm charge.

In 1884, the Van Loon family moved into this 1672 canal-side building, one of a pair of symmetrical houses. In 1974 it opened as a museum, with a collection of Van Loon family portraits from the early 1600s. Period rooms display fine furniture, porcelain and sculpture.

Tuschinski Theater 10

Map E4. Reguliersbreestraat. Box office open daily. Adm charge.

When it opened in 1921, the theatre's exotic blend of Art Deco and Amsterdam School architecture was sensational. Now converted into a six-screen cinema, the building has been superbly restored.

Munttoren 11

Map E4. Muntplein. Closed to the public. Shop open Mon–Sat.

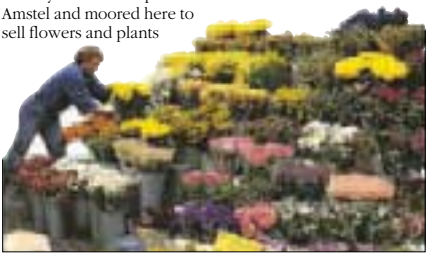
The polygonal base of the Munttoren (Mint Tower) formed part of a gate in Amsterdam's medieval city wall. Only the base survived a fire in 1618. The next year, a clock tower was added. The 1699 carillon rings every 15 minutes.

Dray horse and beer wagon at the Heineken Brouwerij

Bloemenmarkt 12

Map E4. Singel. Open daily.

On the Singel, west of Muntplein, is the last of the city's floating markets. In the past, nurserymen sailed up the Amstel and moored here to sell flowers and plants directly from their boats. Today, the stalls are still floating but are permanent. The seasonal flower displays and spring bedding-plants are always beautiful to look at.



Florist arranging his display at the Bloemenmarkt

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

The Golden Temple
Map F5. Utrechtsestraat 26.
Tel 020 626 8650.
Cheap
Vegetarian Indian, Middle Eastern and Mexican food.

Janvier
Map F5. Amstelveld 12.
Tel 020 626 1199.
Moderate
French-style cuisine.

Le Pêcheur
Map E4. Reguliersdwarsstraat 32. Tel 020 624 3121.
Moderate
Chic, centrally located fish restaurant.

Tujuh Maret
Map F5. Utrechtsestraat 73.
Tel 020 427 9865.
Moderate
Delicious Indonesian dishes.

See p80 for price codes.

BARS AND CAFÉS

Chocolate Bar
Map D6. Eerste van der Helststraat 62a.
Trendy lounge bar-restaurant.

De Huyschkaemer
Map F5. Utrechtsestraat 137.
Split-level, atmospheric designer bar.

Lellebel
Map F5. Utrechtsestraat 4.
Amsterdam's infamous dragshow bar.

SHOPPING

Aronson Antiquairs
Map E5. Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 39.
Delftware, furniture and porcelain.

E H Ariëns Kappers/C P J van der Peet BV
Map E5. Nieuwe Spiegelstraat 32.
Mid-16th to mid-20th century prints.

MUSEUM QUARTER

Until the late 1800s, the Museum Quarter was a farming district. Then it was designated an area of art and culture and Amsterdam's great cultural monuments were built: the Rijksmuseum, Stedelijk Museum, Concertgebouw, with the Van Gogh Museum in 1973. The streets are named after artists and intellectuals. To the west is Vondelpark – a pleasant fresh-air break.

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Stedelijk Museum 4
Nederlands Filmmuseum 9

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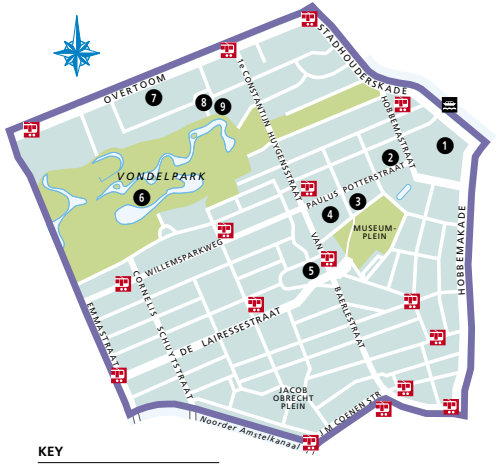
Historic Buildings
Hollandsche Manege 7
Vondelkerk 8

Parks
Vondelpark 6

SEE ALSO

- *Street Life p47*



KEY

Tram stop
Museum boat boarding point

0 metres 400
0 yards 400

◀ *Statue of the painter Pieter Aertsen (1509–75), Stedelijk Museum*

Rijksmuseum, an Amsterdam landmark

Rijksmuseum ❶

Map D6. Stadhouderskade. Open daily except 1 Jan. Adm charge.

This Amsterdam landmark has an unrivalled collection of Dutch art. The huge museum opened in 1885 amid bitter criticism because of its Neo-Gothic architecture. The main building, now undergoing extensive renovation, will reopen in 2008. Until then the highlights are on show in the Philips Wing. Star paintings are Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* (1642), Vermeer's *The Kitchen Maid* (1658) and *St Elizabeth's Day Flood* (1500). The masterpieces can be divided into eight groups:

Dutch History
The turbulent history of the Netherlands is encapsulated in this section, with maritime models and seascapes.

Early Painting and Foreign Schools
Along with Flemish and Italian portraits are the first specifically "Dutch" paintings, mostly religious art.

17th-century Painting
Dutch art moved away from religious themes to animal portraits, landscapes, still lifes, seascapes and domestic interiors.

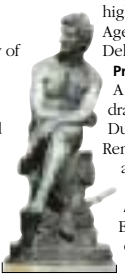
18th- and 19th-century Painting
Dutch painting continued the themes of the 17th century for portraits and still lifes, but with satirical undertones.

Hague School and the Impressionists
This group of Dutch artists formed in 1870 in Den Haag. "Grey" School landscapes have overcast skies and pearly colours.

Sculpture and Applied Arts
Splendour of Renaissance furniture and decoration, highlighting the Golden Age: superb glass and Delftware.

Prints and Drawings
A million prints and drawings, emphasizing Dutch works: Rembrandt's etchings and prints by European artists.

Asiatic Art
Early artefacts: Tang dynasty figurines, parchment paintings, granite rock carvings and inlaid boxes.



Bronze of Mercury, southeast garden

Coster Diamonds ❷

Map D6. Paulus Potterstraat. Open daily. Free.

One of Amsterdam's oldest diamond factories, founded in 1840. A replica of the enormous Koh-i-Noor diamond, one of the treasures of the British crown jewels, is in the entrance hall. In the factory goldsmiths and diamond-cutters produce customized jewellery in a range of styles, which are available over the counter. For serious diamond-buyers, there are private sales rooms where discretion is assured.

Façade of Coster Diamonds

Van Gogh Museum ❸

Map D6. Paulus Potterstraat. Open daily except 1 Jan. Adm charge.

Van Gogh's younger brother Theo, an art dealer, amassed a collection of 200 of the artist's paintings and 500 drawings. These, combined with around 850 letters by Van Gogh to Theo, and selected works by his friends and contemporaries, form the core of the museum's outstanding collection. The airy building, opened in 1973, sets off the paintings

New wing of Van Gogh Museum

to perfection. In 1990, an elegant, oval-shaped, free-standing wing was added. The star Van Gogh paintings on show are *The Bedroom at Arles, Vase with Sunflowers* and *Wheatfield and Crows*.

Stedelijk Museum ❹

Map C6. TPG Building, near Centraal Station (temporary address during renovation). Open daily except 1 Jan. Adm charge.

This museum was built to house the collection of art connoissseur Sophia de Bruyn, who bequeathed it to the city in 1890. In 1938, it became the national museum of modern art from the mid-19th century to the present day. Artists include Picasso, Chagall, Mondriaan, Cézanne and de Kooning. The museum is being renovated and reopens in 2008.

Stedelijk Museum

Façade of the award-winning Concertgebouw

Concertgebouw 5

Map C6. Concertgebouwplein. Box office open daily. Adm charge.

This Neo-Dutch Renaissance building (1888) boasts an elaborate pediment and colonnaded Neo-Classical façade. The world-famous Grote Zaal (main concert hall) has near-perfect acoustics. In the 1980s, the building was in danger of collapse. New foundations were laid, and the building was restored and enlarged, with the addition of a glass extension and new entrance. Though primarily for concerts, it has become a multi-purpose building, with exhibitions, conferences, meetings and occasional boxing matches.

Vondelpark 6

Map D5. Stadhouderskade. Open 24 hrs daily. Open-air theatre Jun–last week Aug, Wed–Sun. Free.

Vondelpark, designed in English-landscape style with vistas, pathways and ponds, opened in 1865. Today it welcomes 8 million visitors a year. It is popular with locals for dog-walking, jogging and admiring the views. Free concerts are given at the *openluchttheater* (open-air theatre) or at the bandstand in the summer. The park has around 100 plant species and 127 types of tree. Endemic wildlife mixes with a colony of parakeets. Cows, sheep, goats, and even a lone llama graze in the pastures.

Façade of the Hollandsche Manege

Hollandsche Manege 7

Map B5. Vondelstraat. Open daily. Free.

The Dutch riding school was first sited on Leidsegracht, but in 1882 a new building was opened, based on Vienna's Spanish Riding School. Threatened

with demolition in the 1980s, it was saved after a public outcry. Reopened in 1986, it has been restored. The Neo-Classical indoor arena boasts gilded mirrors and moulded horses' heads on elaborate plasterwork walls. Some of the wrought-iron stalls remain.

Vondelkerk 8

Map C5. Vondelstraat. Closed to the public.

This was the largest church designed by the architect of the Centraal Station, and it was completed in 1880. When fire broke out in 1904, firefighters saved the nave of the church by forcing the burning tower to fall away into Vondelpark. A new tower was added later. The church was deconsecrated in 1979, then converted into offices in 1985.

The terrace of Café Vertigo at the Filmmuseum

Nederlands Filmmuseum 9

Map C5. Vondelpark. Library open Tue–Thu & Sat except public hols. Box office open daily. Adm charge for cinema.

Vondelpark's pavilion opened in 1881 as a restaurant and café. In 1991, after renovation, The Art Deco interior of the Cinema Parisien, Amsterdam's first cinema (1910), was moved into one of the rooms. Now an important film museum, it shows more than 1,000 films a year.street liferestaurants

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

Brasserie van Baerle
Map C6. Van Baerlestraat 158. Tel 020 679 1532.
Moderate
Polished contemporary brasserie, popular with Dutch celebrities. Great wine list and imaginative French cuisine.

CoBrA Café
Map D6. Hobbemastraat 118. Tel 020 470 0111.
Moderate
Designer café, as an ode to the CoBrA art movement. Wine and dine in the restaurant, or try the stylish sushi bar.

See p80 for price codes.

BARS AND CAFÉS

Bakkerswinkel van Nineties
Map D7. Roelof Hartstraat 68.
Bakery is ideal for breakfast, lunch or tea, but gets crowded.

Café Ebeling
Map C5. Overtoom 52.
Relaxed, spacious, trendy bar.

Café Toussaint
Map C5. Bosboom Toussaintstraat 26.
Charming café-bar. Open kitchen serves delicious lunches and dinners.

Van Altena Zeebanket
Map D5. Stadhouderskade 41.
Eat raw herring, Dutch style.

PLANTAGE

Known as the "plantation", this became one of Amsterdam's first suburbs from 1848. The tree-lined streets of Artis and Hortus Botanicus are still popular places to live. From Werf 't Kromhout there is a fine view of De Gooyer Windmill, one of the few surviving in Amsterdam.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

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Koninklijk Theater Carré 13

SEE ALSO
- *Street Life p53*

Replica of the Amsterdam at the Scheepvaart Museum

Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam 1

Map G4. Plantage Middenlaan. Open daily & public hols except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

This botanical garden has one of the world's largest botanical collections. In 1993, a modern glass and aluminium construction was opened to house tropical, sub-tropical and desert plants. There is also a butterfly house and a glass-domed Palm House (1912) with a 400-year-old cycad (palm fern). A café, terrace and museum are sited in the restored Orangery.

De Burcht (Vakbondsmuseum) 2

Map G4. Henri Polaklaan. Open Tue–Fri, Sun except public hols. Adm charge.

This small museum outlines the history of the Dutch Trade Union movement. Its beautiful interior has murals by artist Richard Ronald Holst of the Amsterdam School and a spectacular arched foyer.

Decorative tiles on the staircase of the Vakbondsmuseum

Tropical plants, Hortus Botanicus

Hollandsche Schouwburg 3

Map G4. Plantage Middenlaan. Open daily except Yom Kippur. Free.

A former theatre, this is a memorial to the 104,000 Dutch Jewish victims of World War II sent from here to concentration camps. The façade and foyer house an education centre. Upstairs, exhibits explain the theatre's dark role.

Artis 4

Map H4. Plantage Kerklaan. Open daily. Adm charge.

Founded in 1838, this is the Netherlands' oldest surviving zoological complex. It has more than 5,000 animal species, three greenhouses, the Planetarium, Geologisch Museum, Aquarium, Amfibarium and Zoölogisch Museum. African savannah and South American pampas habitats have been recreated.

Geologisch Museum 5

Map G4. Plantage Kerklaan. Open daily. Adm charge covered by Artis ticket.

This museum offers an entertaining introduction to the earth. Displays include the evolution of life on earth and the interaction of earth's

elements, with rotating components to represent the biosphere (living things), hydrosphere (water), atmosphere (air) and geosphere (earth's crust). Upstairs are extensive displays of fossils, minerals and stones.

Planetarium 6

Map G4. Plantage Kerklaan. Open daily. Adm charge covered by Artis ticket.

The astronomy show here takes place hourly. A projector reproduces the night sky and shows positions of planets and constellations. Stellar and planetary systems are mapped out using videos, models, photos and push-button exhibits. There are also educational computer games and displays on exploration and astronomy.

Aquarium 7

Map H5. Plantage Kerklaan. Aquarium and Zoölogisch Museums open daily. Adm charge covered by Artis ticket.

The Aquarium's four aquatic systems contain almost 500 species of fish and marine animals that can be viewed at close quarters. They include invertebrates, piranhas, sharks, marine turtles, vivid coral fish and sea horses. The Amfibarium in the basement contains frogs, toads and salamanders in all shapes, colours and sizes.

Tropical fish at the Aquarium

Ammonite fossil at the Geologisch museum

Entrepotdok 8

Map H4.

The redeveloped quayside of Entrepotdok is now a lively complex of offices, homes and eating places. Some of the original façades have been preserved, and the interiors have been opened up to provide an inner courtyard. Café tables are set out along the canal.

Spout-gable façades of former warehouses along Entrepotdok

The grand dome and clock tower of the Muiderpoort

Muiderpoort 9

Map H5. Alexanderplein. Closed to the public.

Formerly a city gate, the Muiderpoort was built in about 1770. The central archway of this Classical structure is topped with a dome and clock tower. Napoleon entered the city through this gate in 1811 and, according to legend, forced the citizens to feed and house his troops.

De Gooyer Windmill 10

Map J4. Funenkade. Closed to the public.

Of Amsterdam's six remaining windmills, the octagonal wooden De Gooyer (also known as the Funenmolen) is the most central. Dominating the view down the Nieuwevaart, it was built around 1725, the first corn mill to use streamlined sails. In a poor state by 1925, it was restored by the city council. Since then, the lower part of the mill has been a private home.

Museum 't Kromhout 11

Map H4. Hoogte Kadijk. Open Tue. Free.

This museum is one of the oldest working shipyards in Amsterdam. Ships were built here as early as 1757. As ships got bigger, the small yard turned to building lighter craft for inland waterways; now it does only restoration and repair work. Dedicated to the history of marine engineering, it displays engines, maritime photographs, ephemera and a well-equipped forge.

Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum 12

Map H3. Kattenburgerplein. Open Tue–Sun & public hols, Mon mid-Jun to mid-Sep except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

This vast Classical sandstone building, dating from 1656, was built round a huge courtyard and supported by

Royal Barge at the Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum

18,000 piles driven into the bed of the Oosterdok. The Arsenal of the Dutch Navy until 1973, it was converted into the Netherlands Maritime Museum and is arranged over several floors. It is again being renovated, but the VOC ship *Amsterdam* is open and part of the collection is on show at other locations.

Koninklijk Theater Carré 13

Map F5. Amstel. Box office open daily. Adm charge.

Originally a wooden structure built for the Carré Circus in 1868 on the banks of the Amstel, in 1887 the theatre was rebuilt to include a circus ring and a stage. The Classical façade is richly decorated with sculpted heads of dancers, jesters and clowns. The Christmas circus is still one of the theatre's annual highlights, but for the rest of the year the stage is taken over by concerts and musicals.

Carving on façade of Koninklijk Theater Carré

Amstelsluizen 14

Map F5. Free.

This row of wooden sluice gates spanning the Amstel river forms part of a system of sluices and pumping stations that ensure the city's canals do not stagnate. Four times a week in summer and twice a week in winter, the sluices are closed while fresh water from lakes north of the city flows into Amsterdam's canals.

Verzetsmuseum 15

Map G4. Plantage Kerklaan. Open daily except 25 Dec,1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

The Resistance Museum has memorabilia recording the activities of 25,000 Dutch Resistance workers in World War II. On display are film clips, slide shows, photos, false documents, weaponry, equipment and exhibits showing where refugees hid. It was voted best historic museum in 2002 and 2003.

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

La Rive/Intercontinental Amstel Hotel
Map G6. Prof Tulpplein 1. Tel 020 622 6060.
Expensive
Grand restaurant on the Amstel. Traditional to contemporary dishes. A gastronomic treat. Wines and service are perfectly matched.
See p80 for price codes.

BARS AND CAFÉS

Media Café Plantage
Map G4. Plantage Kerklaan 36.
Busy spot with terrace dining. Live music.

Eik en Linde
Map H5. Plantage Middenlaan 22.
An archetypal Dutch "brown" bar, popular with locals.

FURTHER AFIELD

Parts of Nieuw Zuid (New South) also show the innovation of Amsterdam School architects. Many fine buildings are located in the De Dageraad Housing complex and streets around the Olympic Quarter. The charming, historic small town of Ouderkerk aan de Amstel nestles on the city's southern fringe. Antique trams take visitors from the Electrische Museumtramlijn to lakes, woods and parkland in Amsterdamse Bos, while Amstelpark's more formal horticulture can be viewed from a miniature train. The suburbs also have a clutch of instructive museums.

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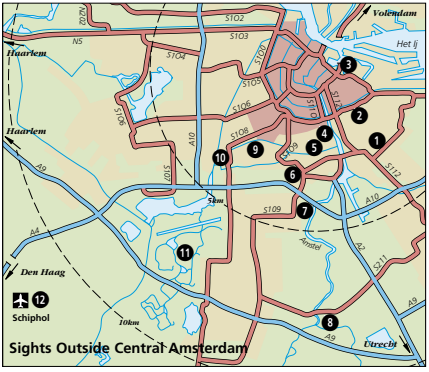


◀ *Moored sailing boat on the river at Ouderkerk aan de Amstel*

Ignatius van Logteren's fountain in the grounds of the Frankendael

Frankendael 1

Middenweg. House closed to the public. Rear gardens open dawn–dusk. Free.

During the early 1700s, many country retreats were built south of Plantage Middenlaan. Louis XIV-style Frankendael is the last survivor. The best views of the ornamented façade are from Middenweg, which is also the best place to see the 1714 fountain. The rear gardens offer a peaceful refuge.

Recreated nomad's felt tent from Afghanistan in the Tropenmuseum

Tropenmuseum 2

Linnaeusstraat. Open daily except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 30 Apr, 5 May. Tropenmuseum Junior Wed, Sat, school hols & most public hols. Adm charge.

This vast complex for housing the Dutch Colonial Institute was finished in 1926. Its exterior is decorated with imperial symbols, such as stone friezes of peasants planting rice. Renovated in 1978, the Royal Tropical Institute opened a museum on indigenous peoples in the tropics.

Nemo Science Center Amsterdam 3

Oosterdok. Open Tue–Sun & public hols except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

In 1997, Holland's national science centre moved to this dazzling curved building, which protrudes 30 m (99 ft) over water. Nemo presents technological innovations in a way that allows visitors' creativity full expression. Interact with virtual reality, operate the latest industrial equipment, harness science to create art, take part in games, experiments, workshops and demonstrations or see lectures, films and stage shows. In summer the roof is turned into a beach where visitors can picnic and enjoy the views.

Gemeentearchief Amsterdam 4

Amsteldijk. Open Mon–Sat except public hols. Free.

This elaborate 19th-century building, with its ornate Neo-Renaissance façade, has been home to the city's municipal archives since 1914. The oldest document is the Toll of Privilege of 1275. City records include a register of baptisms, marriages and burials dating back to 1550 and a collection of drawings, books, newspapers and audiovisual material. In mid-2006, it

The late-19th-century façade of the Gemeentearchief Amsterdam

moves to the ABN Bank building, Vijzelstraat 34.

De Dageraad Housing ❺

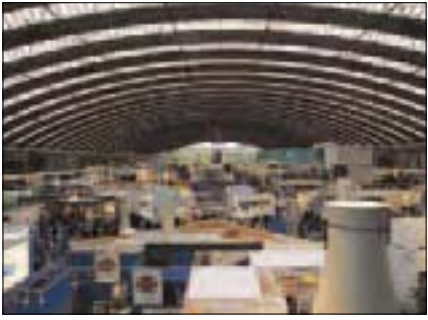
Pieter Lodewijk Takstraat. Closed to the public.

One of the best examples of the Amsterdam School architecture, the De Dageraad (the Dawn) housing project (built from 1918 to 1923) was developed following the revolutionary 1901 Housing Act, which forced the city council to condemn slums and rethink housing policy. The architects used a technique called "apron architecture" in which an underlayer of concrete allows for tucks and folds in the brick exterior, which was then subtly coloured and interspersed with decorative doors and windows. Each house mirrors the one opposite and there is a corner tower at the end of every block.

Amsterdam RAI ❻

Europaplein. Open for exhibitions. Adm charge.

One of the largest exhibition and conference centres in the country, the RAI hosts more than 1,000 events annually, from cabaret to horse shows and trade fairs. The city's first trade fair, in 1893, was for bicycles. Later, cars were an annual event, so it became the "RAI" (Rijwiel Automobiel Industrie). The present complex, opened in 1961, now boasts 11 exhibition halls and 22 congress halls.



Interior of Amsterdam RAI with trade fair in progress

Amstelpark's Rieker windmill

Amstelpark 7

Europaboulevard. Open dawn to dusk. Free.

This large park, in the suburb of Buitenveldert, was created in 1972. Its attractions include a rose garden, rhododendron walk and model garden with nursery. Children can enjoy a playground, pony rides, minigolf and mini-football. The well-preserved Rieker windmill was built in 1636. Art exhibitions are held in the Glazen Huis and Papillon Gallery. There is a miniature train from Easter to October.

Ouderkerk aan de Amstel 8

Wester Amstel Garden open daily. Free.

This pretty village has waterfront restaurants and cafés. A fine 18th-century church stands opposite the Beth Haim Jewish cemetery. The skyline is dominated by the 50-m (160-ft) spire of the Urbanuskerk, a Catholic church dating from 1867. Two 18th-century country houses are a short walk upriver along Amsteldijk.

Olympic Quarter 9

Free.

Development of the west side of Nieuw Zuid began during the run-up to the 1928 Olympic Games. The stark lines and soaring torch tower of the stadium recall the work of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The bridge across the Noorder Amstel Kanaal at Olympiaplein, and the Amsterdams Lyceum, are typical examples of the Amsterdam School design.

Peaceful waterfront at Ouderkerk aan de Amstel, south of Amsterdam

Pedalos on a lake in the Amsterdamse Bos

Electrische Museumtramlijn ⑩

Amstelveenseweg. Open Sun, Easter–Oct, also Wed pm and on request, Jun–Aug. Adm charge.

This tram ride operates from Haarlemmermeerstation and the southern tip of Amsterdamse Bos. The tramcars date from 1910 to 1950. The fleet is run along traditional lines, and cars depart regularly from either terminus. A 20-minute one-way journey provides a good view of the Olympic Stadium.

Classic tram from the Museumtramlijn

Amsterdamse Bos ⑪

Amstelveenseweg. Open daily. Free. Theatre open Jul & Aug.

This 800-ha (2,000-acre) woodland park, the city's largest recreational area, is interspersed with grassy meadows, lakes, waterways and a hill. Highlights include huge European bison, a goat farm, the Vogeleiland botanical gardens, the Bosmuseum, with exhibits about the park, nature reserves and the lakes at Amstelveense and Kleine Poels. Planned walks, cycle paths, bridleways, water sports and a summer open-air theatre are also available.

Schiphol Airport ⑫

Evert van Beekstraat.

This modern airport is one of the most efficient and user-friendly, with colour-coded signs to help visitors navigate around. It has many attractions to help fill time when waiting for a flight. In 2002, an annex of the Rijksmuseum was opened, showing classic works of art. The airport also has a casino, as well as a haven in the form of a chair massage. There are also a place of worship, a vast number of shops, bars and restaurants, and a Panorama Terrace offering great views of the aircraft.

DAY TRIPS FROM AMSTERDAM

Many places of interest are within easy reach of Amsterdam, which is at the hub of the Dutch transport system with fast road and rail links to towns and cities throughout the Netherlands. To the west is Haarlem, just 15 minutes away. To the southwest are the university town of Leiden; the country's political capital, Den Haag; and Delft, where the famous blue and white pottery is made. To the south lies the historic city of Utrecht. In spring, cycling is the ideal way to take in the beauty of the bulbfields.

SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Haarlem 1
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Den Haag 4
Delft 5
Utrecht 6

Tour
Tour of the Bulbfields 2

SEE ALSO

- *Street Life pp63, 67, 69, 71, 73*

KEY

Airport
Ferry port

0 kilometres 20
0 miles 20

◀ *The Nieuwe kerk in Delft's market square*

Haarlem ❶

Haarlem is the centre of the Dutch printing, pharmaceutical and bulb-growing industries. The delightful brick-paved lanes around the Grote Markt are at its heart, with most sites within walking distance. This lively square is packed with ancient buildings, cafés, restaurants, bookshops, antique and food shops.

Tree-lined market square of Grote Markt

Frans Hals Museum

Groot Heiligland. Open Tue–Sun & public hols except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

Frans Hals (1580–1666) introduced a new realism into painting. In 1913, the Old Men's Home (the object of one of Hals's paintings) became this museum devoted to his work and that of other Dutch artists.

Grote Kerk

Oude Groenmarkt. Open Mon–Sat. Adm charge.

The enormous Gothic edifice of Grote Kerk (1400–1550) and its bell tower dominate the market square. Inside are a high, delicately patterned, cedarwood ceiling, white upper walls, 28 coloured columns, a choir screen in the shape of an eagle, choirstalls with coats of arms, misericords carved with animals and human heads, a flamboyant organ and a stone slab marking Frans Hals's grave.

Stadhuis

Grote Markt. Open by appt only or go to reception. Free.

Haarlem's town hall is an odd mix of architectural styles from 1250. The oldest part is the medieval banqueting hall, with portraits of Dutch counts.

De Hallen (Vleeshal and Verweyhal)

Grote Markt. Open Tue–Sun & public hols except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

The Halls is the name for two buildings that are part of the Frans Hals Museum. The Verweyhal exhibits Expressionism, the Cobra School, Impressionism and contemporary works. The Vleeshal (1602) holds modern art exhibitions.

Detail on Vleeshal façade by Lieven de key

Amsterdamse Poort

Near Amsterdamsevaart. Closed to the public.

The Poort was one of a complex of 12 gates guarding transport routes in and out of Haarlem. The gate was built in 1355, but much of the brickwork and gables date from the late 1400s.

Teylers Museum

Spaarne. Open Tue–Sun & public hols except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

This was Holland's first major public museum, founded 1778. Its collection of fossils, drawings and scientific paraphernalia is displayed in Neo-Classical splendour in a series of 18th-century rooms.

St Elisabeth's Gasthuis Historisch Museum Kennemerland

Groot Heiligland. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Free.

Haarlem is well known for its *hofjes* (almshouses). This one was built in 1610, around a pretty courtyard. After extensive restoration this almshouse was opened in 1995 as Haarlem's principal historical museum.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Rail station: Stationsplein. Tourist information: Stationsplein, tel (0900) 616 1600. Markets: Mon, Fri, Sat. Haarlem Jazz Festival: mid-Aug. **www.vvvzk.nl.**

Tiles inside Haarlem Station

Haarlem Station

Stationsplein.

The Netherlands' first railway line opened in 1839, between Haarlem and Amsterdam. Between 1905–8, the original 1842 station was reworked in Art Nouveau style. Inside, brightly coloured tiles depict modes of transport.

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

De Lachende Javaan
Frankestraat 27.
Tel 023 532 8792.
Cheap
The finest Javan dishes.

Applause
Grote Markt 23a.
Tel 023 531 1425.
Moderate
Smart, Dutch cuisine.

BARS AND CAFÉS

In Den Uiver
Riviersmarkt 13.
Lively Dutch "brown" bar with occasional live music.

Café 1900
Bartelijorisstraat 10.
Popular café-bar with 1930s interior. Serves drinks and light meals.

See p80 for price codes.

A Tour of the Bulbfields ❷

A 30-km (19-mile) strip between Haarlem and Leiden, the Bloembollenstreek is the Netherlands' most important bulb-growing area. From late January, the polders bloom with vividly coloured bulbs – early crocuses, then tulips around mid-April, followed by late-blooming flowers like lilies into late May. You can travel by car, take a tour or hire a bicycle at Haarlem railway station to view the bulbfields, dropping it off in Leiden.

The Netherlands' huge, colourful bulbfields are an unforgettable sight

① De Cruquius Museum

Its exhibits explain how polders and dams work and how they keep the sea and flood water at bay.

② Linnaeushof

This huge park has one of Europe's largest adventure playgrounds.

③ Vogelenzang

The first nurseries were established here in 1789.

④ Keukenhof

This park greets you with heady scents and brilliant colours of millions of bulbs in bloom.

⑤ Lisse

A small bulb-museum can be found at Lisse, and boat trips are available on nearby Kager Plassen lake.

⑥ Sassenheim

West of the town lie the remains of Burcht Teylingen, an 11th-century castle.

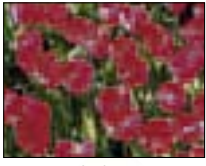
⑦ Katwijk

A rare, early-17th-century lighthouse, to the north of this seaside town, stands at the Oude Rijn's mouth.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Starting point: *Haarlem.* ***Length:*** *Approx 30 km (19 miles).* ***Stopping-off points:*** *In addition to the places named below, all of which have a selection of restaurants, cafés and bars, it is worth diverting to Noordwijk aan Zee, a lively seaside town with a lovely dune-backed beach.*

THE BULBFIELDS



Red tulips in full flower

Springtime in the bulbfields

Tulips on sale in April

Leiden ❸

Leiden's university, the oldest and most prestigious in the Netherlands, was founded in 1575. An important crossroads on a branch of the Rijn (Rhine), Leiden (itself dating from Roman times) grew prosperous. It has some exceptional museums, bookshops and cafés, and is Rembrandt's birthplace.

Lift bridge on the Oude Rijn, Leiden

Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal

Oude Singel. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

The Lakenhal (Cloth Hall) was the headquarters of the city's cloth trade. It houses the municipal museum, with modern art and furniture from the 1500s onwards. The highlight is Lucas van Leyden's Renaissance triptych of *The Last Judgment* (1526–7). There is also a wing displaying silverware, furniture and local weaving.

Hortus Botanicus der Rijksuniversiteit Leiden

Rapenburg. Open daily Apr–Nov, Sun–Fri Dec–Mar, except 3 Oct, 25 Dec–1 Jan. Adm charge.

Leiden's botanical garden, founded in 1587, contains shrubs and trees, as well as a reconstruction of an original walled garden, hothouses full of orchids, rose gardens and colourful beds of tulips planted around ponds.

Museum Boerhaave

Lange St Agnietenstraat. Open Tue–Sun & public hols except 1 Jan, 3 Oct. Adm charge.

The museum is devoted to the development of science in the Netherlands. It contains reconstructions of an anatomy theatre and hospital wards, and many other fascinating exhibits.

Hortus Botanicus

Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde

Steenstraat. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 3 Oct. Adm charge.

This ethnological museum has collections from non-western cultures, linking together to create a worldwide cultural journey.

Stedelijk Molenmuseum de Valk

Binnenvestgracht. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 3 Oct. Adm charge.

This grain mill, built in 1743, is Leiden's last remaining. Seven storeys high, it is now restored to its original working state. The tour includes an exhibition on the history of Dutch windmills.

Pieterskerk

Pieterskerkhof. Open daily except 3 Oct, 31 Dec. Free.

This 15th-century Gothic church, now a community centre, is worth visiting for its austere interior and its organ (1642), enclosed in gilded woodwork.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Rail station: Stationsplein. Tourist information: Stationsplein, tel (0900) 222 2333. Markets: Wed, Sat. Festivals: Leids Summer: first week July; Viering van Leidens Ontzet: 3 Oct.

De Burcht

Nieuwe Rijn. Battlements open daily.

This 12th-century fortress with crenellated battlements, sits on a man-made mound thought to be of Saxon origin. The top of the citadel offers superb views.

Rijksmuseum van Oudheden

Rapenburg. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 3 Oct. Adm charge.

This museum of antiquities is Leiden's main attraction. The highlight is the Egyptian Temple of Taffeh, dating from the 1st century AD. There are also displays of musical instruments, textiles and shoes, Etruscan bronzework and fragments of Roman mosaic and frescoes.

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

La Bota
Herensteeg 9.
Tel 071 514 6340.
Moderate
Excellent-value Dutch food.

De Jonge Koekop
Lange Mare 60.
Tel 071 514 1937.
Moderate
Innovative food from France and much further afield.

Engelbertha Hoeve
Hoge Morsweg 140.
Tel 071 576 5000.
Moderate
Classic French dishes.

BARS AND CAFES

M'n Broer
Kloksteeg 7.
Quiet café-bar offering a range of tasty light meals.

See p80 for price codes.

Den Haag ❹

Den Haag ('s-Gravenhage or The Hague) is the political capital of the Netherlands, home to prestigious institutions such as the Dutch Parliament and the International Court of Justice.

Hofvijver and parliament buildings

① Grote Kerk

Ronde de Grote Kerk. Open for exhibitions (usually Jul–Aug). Free.

In its present form, the Grote Kerk dates mainly from 1539 but underwent major rebuilding in the 1980s. Its most impressive feature is a stained-glass window, which depicts Charles V kneeling at the feet of the Virgin Mary.

② Rijksmuseum Gevangenpoort

Buitenhof. Open Tue–Sun except 1 Jan, 25 Dec. Adm charge.

The Gevangenpoort (prison gate), originally the main gateway to the castle of the counts of Holland, is today a prison museum.

DEN HAAG CITY CENTRE

③ Galerij Prins Willem V

Buitenhof. Closed for renovations until 2007. Adm charge.

Prince William V's collection of Old Master paintings is the oldest art gallery in the Netherlands.

④ Museum Bredius

Lange Vijverberg. Open Tue–Sun except 1 Jan, 25 Dec. Adm charge.

A vast collection of 17th-century art by Dutch Masters and other artists is on display, as well as antiques.

The 17th-century façade of the Haags Historisch Museum

⑤ Ridderzaal

Binnenhof. Open Mon–Sat (phone in advance) except public hols. Adm charge.

The 13th-century Gothic Ridderzaal is used for state occasions, and visitors can tour parts of it when parliament is not sitting.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Rail stations: Koningin Julianaplein, Centraal Station; Stationsplein, Station Hollands Spoor (HS). Tourist information: Koningin Julianaplein, tel (0900) 340 3505. Markets: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat. Festivals: Vlaggetjesdag Scheveningen: last Sat in May or first Sat in Jun; North Sea Jazz Festival: mid-Jul.

⑥ Haags Historisch Museum

Korte Vijverberg. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

The museum tells the story of the city's growth since the Middle Ages featuring painting and furnishings.

⑦ Mauritshuis

Korte Vijverberg. Open Tue–Sun & public hols except 1 Jan, 25 Dec. Adm charge.

One of the finest galleries in the Netherlands, this 1644 mansion was built in Dutch Classical style. The home of the Royal Picture Gallery since 1821, its collection is small, but almost every painting is a superb work by one of the Old Masters.

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

Aubergerie
Nieuwe Schoolstraat 19.
Tel 070 364 8078.
Moderate
Subtle French dishes.

Julien
Vos in Tuinstraat 2a.
Tel 070 365 8602.
Moderate
Traditional French offerings.

The Raffles
Javastraat 63.
Tel 070 345 8587.
Moderate
Delicious Indonesian food.

BARS AND CAFÉS

Le Café Hathor
Laliestraat 22.
Laid-back café-bar with canalside terrace.
See p80 for price codes.

Delft ❺

The charming town of Delft is known the world over for its blue-and-white pottery, but is equally famous as the resting place of William of Orange (1533–84), one of the most celebrated figures in Dutch history. This sleepy old town (dating from 1075), with its Gothic and Renaissance houses lining tree-shaded canals, was also the birthplace of artist Jan Vermeer (1632–75).

Oude Kerk

Heilige Geestherkhof. Open Mon–Sat. Adm charge.

A church has existed on this site since the 1200s, but the original building has been added to many times. The ornate clock tower was built in the 1300s; the Flamboyant Gothic north transept was added in the early 1500s. The interior is dominated by the carved wooden pulpit. Jan Vermeer's burial place is marked by a stone tablet.

Nieuwe Kerk

Markt. Open Mon–Sat. Adm charge.

Much of the original structure (built 1383–1510) was restored by 1872, with the addition of a statuesque 100-m (320-ft) tower to the Gothic façade. The Dutch royal family's burial vaults are in the crypt. The interior's most prominent feature is the stately mausoleum of William of Orange. The richly decorated tomb is carved from black and white marble. At its foot is a trumpeting angel.

Statue of Prince William of Orange in Nieuwe Kerk

Coat of arms on façade of the Legermuseum

Koninklijk Nederlands Legermuseum

Korte Geer. Open daily except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Free.

The Legermuseum (army museum) is housed in the Armamentarium, the former arsenal of the old West Friesland and Holland provinces. Built in 1692, it is full of weaponry, military uniforms, battle models and armoured vehicles. Exhibits trace developments in Dutch military history since the Middle Ages up to its peacekeeping role for the United Nations.

Stedelijk Museum Het Prinsenhof

St Agathaplein. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

This tranquil Gothic building, once a convent, houses

Delft's historical museum, but it is better known as the place where William of Orange was assassinated. The bullet holes in the main staircase wall are still visible. On show is a rare collection of antique Delftware, tapestries, silverware, medieval sculpture and a series of portraits of the Dutch royal family, from William of Orange to today.

Volkenkundig Museum Nusantara

St Agathaplein. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

When William of Orange took over the Prinsenhof in 1572, the nuns moved into one of its wings across the square. This is now the Nusantara ethnological museum. On show is its small but fascinating collection of carvings, textiles, masks, jewellery and musical instruments brought back from Indonesia by traders working for the Dutch East India Company. The shop sells unusual modern Indonesian crafts.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Rail station: Stationsplein. Tourist information: Hippolytusbuurt, tel (0900) 515 1555. Markets: Thu, Sat. Festivals: Jazz/Blues Festival: mid-Aug; Delft Dag: last Sat in Aug.

Museum Lambert van Meerten

Oude Delft. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge.

This small museum is located in an elegantly furnished, 19th-century mansion, with paintings and architectural details salvaged from local 17th- and 18th-century buildings. Highlights are the antique hand-painted Delftware tiles and tile pictures.

Fine gabled façades along Binnenwaterslot in Delft

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

Le Vieux Jean
Heilige Geestkerkhof 3.
Tel 015 213 0433.
Moderate
Original French cooking.

De Zwethheul
Rotterdamseweg 480.
Tel 010 470 4166.
Expensive
Sumptuous menus in this Michelin 2-star restaurant.

BARS AND CAFÉS

Locus Publicus
Brabants Turfmark 67
Popular bar with a large array of beers.

SHOPPING

De Porcelijne Lampetkan
Vrouwenregt 5.
Antique delftware at comparatively reasonable prices.

See p80 for price codes.

Utrecht 6

Founded by the Romans, Utrecht was an important religious centre in the Middle Ages. Its churches and monasteries today stand alongside modern blocks and a vast shopping complex. The city's Old Canal is lined with broad quays, cellar bars and cafés.

① Nationaal Museum van Speelklok tot Pierement

The Buurkerk on Steenweg. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

This magical place is housed in Utrecht's oldest church, the 13th-century Buurkerk. It displays mechanical musical instruments from the 1700s to the present day. Fairground organs, carillons, and pianolas are demonstrated on sing-along, dance-along guided tours.

Organ in the Speelklok Museum

UTRECHT CITY CENTRE

Nationaal Museum van Speelklok tot Pierement ①
Domtoren and Domkerk ②
Pieterskerk ③
Museum Catharijneconvent ④

KEY

- P Parking
- Church

② Domtoren/Domkerk

Via 'Rondom', Domplein/Achter den Dom. Domtoren open daily except 25 Dec, 1 Jan. Adm charge. Domkerk open daily. Free.

The 1382 Domtoren tower is 112 m (367 ft) tall. Building of the Domkerk (Utrecht' s cathedral) began in 1254.

③ Pieterskerk

Pieterskerkhof. Open 1st or 3rd Sat (but check). Free.

The church (1048) is a rare Dutch example of German Romanesque architecture.

④ Museum Catharijneconvent

Lange Nieuwstraat. Closed for renovation until spring 2006. Adm charge.

The beautiful former convent of St Catherine (1562) is now home to a museum displaying medieval art.

Centraal Museum

Nicolaas Kerkhof. Open Tue–Sun except 25 Dec, 1 Jan, 30 Apr. Adm charge.

At the heart of the collection are portraits by artist Jan van Scorel (1495–1562), who was influenced by Italian Renaissance painting. Another highlight is the Schröderhuis on Prins Hendriklaan, with displays of Dutch interior design.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Rail station: Hoog Catharijne. Tourist information: Vinkenburg Str, tel (0900) 128 8732. Markets: Wed, Sat. Festivals: Holland Festival Oude Muziek: end Aug–beg Sep; Netherlands Film Festival: end Sep–beg Oct.

Guard's box at Spoorwegmuseum

Nederlands Spoorwegmuseum

Maliebaanstation. Open Tue–Sun except public hols. Adm charge.

The Dutch railway headquarters is based in Utrecht, and the city has a superb railway museum with much equipment and rolling stock.

STREET LIFE

RESTAURANTS

De Raadspensionaris
Krommestraat 52.
Tel 033 462 3006.
Moderate
A quality, fixed-price menu.

Goesting
Veeartsenijpad 150. Tel 030 273 3346.
Moderate
Stylish dishes served.

BARS AND CAFÉS

Stadskasteel Oudaen
Oude Gracht 99.
Typical bar with beer brewed on the premises. Also serves Dutch food.

De Witte Ballons
Lijnmarkt 10–12.
Friendly, low-key bar.

See p80 for price codes.

Getting Around

Enjoy this "Venice of the North" by bicycle (half a million people use their cycles daily) or on foot. A canal tour is a great way of seeing the city's many splendid sights – and its integrated public transport system is both efficient and inexpensive.

Walking

Wear sensible shoes as the cobbled streets can be tiring and hazardous. Look both ways before crossing the tram routes and mind the many bicycles. Most pedestrian crossings have lights, but beware those without: cars do not need to stop for you.

Pedestrian crossing

By Bicycle

Bring your own bicycle, hire one or join a cycle tour – this is the ideal way of seeing Amsterdam. The city's traffic system is biased in favour of bicycles, with an excellent network of integrated cycle lanes *(fietspaden)*, dedicated road signs and traffic lights, plus special routes linking the city. Remember to drive on the right; motorists and other cyclists have priority when entering your road from the right. Beware of trams (they take priority).

Cycle tour crossing Nieuwe Herengracht

Driving

The city is ill-suited to motor traffic. Parking is difficult, clamping prevalent and theft rife. Book a secure facility at your hotel; or park on the outskirts of the city and use the "P&R" (park and ride) scheme.

Parking

Use a car park, rather than a meter or roadside space, and remove valuables and radio if parking in a public place. Meters take coins and/or parking cards and are limited to two hours. Several 24-hour covered car parks operate. All city car parks are denoted by a white P on a square blue background; a three-day parking pass costs €23.

Taxis

Get one at a taxi rank, or phone the 24-hour TCA Taxicentrale *(677 7777)*. Rates are high.

Travelling by Tram

The blue and white trams operate from 6am to midnight on weekdays, slightly

An Amsterdam tram

later on weekends. Blue boards at the tram and bus stops give the name of the stop and its route numbers. Don't get on or off via the front door unless you need to buy a ticket from the driver. Get your ticket stamped from the machine inside or by the conductor.

Travelling by Bus

Most city buses go from Centraal Station and use the same stops and ticketing system as trams – you must enter by the front door. A bus 'de Opstapper' leaves every 10 minutes (Mon–Sat) from Centraal Station along Prinsengracht to Waterlooplein and back. It runs near many sights, museums and shopping areas. There is a limited night bus service.

Travelling by Metro

The Metro has four stations in the centre, all on the eastern side: Amsterdam CS (Centraal Station), Nieuwmarkt, Waterlooplein and Weesperplein. It uses the same ticketing system as trams and runs for a half hour longer on weekdays. Take care on night trains.

Metro station sign

Tram and Bus Tickets

Each ticket strip covers one zone for Metro, tram or bus. Counting from the top, leave blank the number of strips needed for your journey by folding them back, then stamp the next one in a machine. Most sights are in the central zone, so only two strips per person travelling need to be validated.

Travelling by Train

The Dutch national railway (Nederlandse Spoorwegan) is reliable, clean and inexpensive. The OVR office has a mass of information for tourists, but tickets must be bought and reservations made at the railway ticket office in Centraal Station.

Travelling on Canals

Canal tours using glass-topped boats depart opposite Centraal Station along Prins Hendrikkade, Damrak and Rokin. Or take a canal-bus: every 30 mins along three routes, with 14 stops near major museums and shopping areas. An All Amsterdam Transport Pass (for one, two or three days) entitles you to a free round trip of the canals.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Nederlandse Spoorwegen: Centraal Station **www.ns.nl** Tel: 0900 9296
GVB (Tourist Board): Stationsplein 14 **www.gvb.nl** Tel: 0900 9292
OVR (for transport info): Tel: 0900 9292

Survival Guide

After a recent clean-up, Amsterdam is now one of the safest cities in Europe, although it does have a reputation for crime (mostly drugs-related). But it's a good idea to take out travel insurance. The city has efficient emergency services and helplines.

GWK exchange counter at Schiphol Airport

MONEY

Currency
The currency in the Netherlands is the euro (€). Euro bank-notes have seven denominations from €5 to €500, and eight coin denominations ranging from €1 cent to €2.

Banks
Banks are open from 9 or 10am to 4 or 5pm Mon–Fri; some stay open till 7pm on Thursdays – *koopavond*, or shopping night.

Credit Cards
Most credit cards are widely accepted and can be used to obtain money via bank automatic cash dispensers. They accept Access, Visa, American Express, Diner's Club, Mastercard and Banknet; few banks give cash against credit cards. Some restaurants require a minimum purchase if you want to use a credit card.

Changing Money
You can change currency in banks, American Express offices and Postbanks; all charge a small commission. Or use an official bureau de change, such as a GWK (*grenswisselkantoren*) rather than an independent, for a fair exchange rate.

Automatic Cash Dispensers
There are lots of cash dispensers, which function in several languages.

Travellers' Cheques
These are the safest way to carry your money and are useful for hotel bills; a restaurant is not obliged to give you change if the cheque is larger than your bill, however. Most Dutch banks exchange them for cash, and you can use them in many retail outlets.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dutch TPG postbox

Post Offices
Displaying a TPG logo and open 9am–5pm, Mon–Fri, they provide stamps, telegrams, poste restante, telephones, fax and telex, as well as exchange currency or travellers' cheques. Some offer photocopying. Buy stamps also from tobacconists and souvenir shops.

Use *overige bestemmingen* slots in red post boxes to send mail abroad or outside the city.

Telephones

Most public telephones (green with a KPN Telecom logo) require a phonecard (from post offices, supermarkets, newsagents and stations) or use a credit card. The international code for Amsterdam is 020 and 00 31 for The Netherlands.

Internet Cafés

Pick up and send emails, or just surf, at EasyEverything (the Reguliersbreestraat branch has 250 terminals).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Police

They have a reputation for being helpful and friendly. Hoofdbureau van Politie headquarters is in Elandsgracht, with main stations in Prinsengracht, Beursstraat and Lijnbaansgracht.

Health and Insurance

EU visitors receive medical and dental treatment in The Netherlands at a reduced charge, but you must have a European Health Insurance Card. You'll have to pay for any treatment and reclaim later. It may also be wise to take out private insurance to cover repatriation in an emergency. Non-EU visitors must have medical cover.

Hospitals, Doctors, Dentists

Your hotel, local pharmacy or tourist office have details of doctors or dentists who speak English. So does the Central Medical Service (*Centrale Doktersdienst*), tel: 020 592 3434. Minor accidents are treated in

Ambulance

hospital outpatient clinics (open 24 hours). Of the central hospitals, only the Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis has an accident and emergency department at: 1e Oosterparkstraat 279 Tel: 599 9111.

Pharmacies

For non-prescription drugs or toiletries, go to a chemist (*drogist*) who can advise on minor problems. To have a prescription made up, go to a pharmacy (*apotheek*), open 8.30am to 5.30pm, Mon–Fri. Notices will say which pharmacies are open outside normal hours.

Mosquitoes

Attracted by the canals, mosquitoes can be a real irritant. Large pharmacies or supermarkets sell repellants.

A selection of anti-mosquito preparations

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance, Fire and Police:
Tel: 112 (24 hrs a day)
Police:
Tel: 0900 8844 (central no.)
SOS Crisis Helpline:
Tel: 675 7575 (24 hrs a day)

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Phrase Book

In Emergency

Help!	**Help!**	Help
Stop!	**Stop!**	Stop
Call a doctor	**Haal een dokter**	Haal uhn **dok**-tur
Call an ambulance	**Bel een ambulance**	Bell uhn ahm-bew-**luhns**-uh
Call the police	**Roep de politie**	Roop duh poe-**leet**-see
Call the fire brigade	**Roep de brandweer**	Roop duh **brahnt**-vheer
Where is the nearest telephone?	**Waar is de dichtstbijzijnde telefoon?**	Vhaar iss duh **dikhst**-baiy-zaiyn-duh tay-luh-**foan**
Where is the nearest hospital?	**Waar is het dichtstbijzijnde ziekenhuis?**	Vhaar iss het **dikhst**-baiy-zaiyn-duh **zee**-kuh-houws

Communication Essentials

Yes/No	**Ja/Nee**	Yaa/Nay
Please	**Alstublieft**	Ahls-tew-**bleeft**
Excuse me	**Pardon**	Pahr-**don**
Thank you	**Dank u**	Dahnk-ew
Hello	**Hallo**	Hallo
Goodbye	**Dag**	Dahgh
morning	**Morgen**	**Mor**-ghuh
afternoon	**Middag**	**Mid**-dahgh
evening	**Avond**	**Ah**-vohnd
What?	**Wat?**	Vhat
When?	**Wanneer?**	Vhan-**eer**
Why?	**Waarom?**	Vhaar-**om**
Where?	**Waar?**	Vhaar

Useful Phrases

How do you do?	**Hoe maakt u het?**	Hoo maakt ew het
Very well, thank you	**Heel goed, dank u**	Hayl ghoot, dahnk ew
That's fine	**Prima**	**Pree**-mah
Do you speak English?	**Spreekt u engels?**	Spraykt ew **eng**-uhls
I don't understand	**Ik snap het niet**	Ik snahp het neet
Could you speak slowly?	**Kunt u langzamer praten?**	Kuhnt ew **lahng**-zahmer praa-tuh

Useful Words

big	**groot**	ghroaht
small	**klein**	klaiyn
hot	**warm**	vharm
cold	**koud**	khowt
good	**goed**	ghoot
bad	**slecht**	slekht
open	**open**	open
closed	**gesloten**	ghuh-**slow**-tuh
left	**links**	links
right	**rechts**	rekhts
straight on	**rechtdoor**	rehkht dohr
near	**dichtbij**	dikht baiy
far	**ver weg**	vehr vhekh
up	**omhoog**	om-**hoakh**
down	**naar beneden**	naar buh-**nay**-duh
early	**vroeg**	vroohkh

late	**laat**	laat
entrance	**ingang**	**in**-ghahng
exit	**uitgang**	**ouht**-ghang

Shopping

How much does this cost?	**Hoeveel kost dit?**	Hoo-**vayl** kost dit
I would like	**Ik wil graag**	Ik vhil ghraakh
Do you take credit cards?	**Neemt u credit cards aan?**	Naymt ew credit cards aan
Do you take traveller's cheques?	**Neemt u reischeques aan?**	Naymt ew **raiys**-sheks aan
What time do you open/close?	**Hoe laat gaat u open?**	Hoo laat ghaat ew opuh/dikht
What time do you open?	**Hoe laat gaat u open?**	Hoo laat ghaat ew opuh

Sightseeing

bus station	**busstation**	**buhs**-stah-shown
church	**kerk**	kehrk
closed on public holidays	**op feestdagen gesloten**	op **fayst**-daa-ghuh ghuh-**slow**-tuh
museum	**museum**	mew-**zay**-uhm
railway station	**station**	stah-**shown**
tourist information	**VVV**	fay fay fay

Eating Out

Have you got a table?	**Is er een tafel vrij?**	Iss ehr uhn **tah**-fuhl vraiy
The bill, please	**Mag ik afrekenen**	Mukh ik **ahf**-ray-kuh-nuh
I am a vegetarian	**Ik ben vegetariër**	Ik ben fay-ghuh-**taahr**-ee-er
menu	**de kaart**	duh kaahrt
wine list	**de wijnkaart**	duh **vhaiyn**-kaart
waiter/waitress	**ober/serveertster**	oh-ber/sehr-veer-ster
cover charge	**het couvert**	het koo-**vehr**
glass	**het glas**	het ghlahss
bottle	**de fles**	duh fless
knife	**het mes**	het mess
fork	**de vork**	duh fork
spoon	**de lepel**	duh **lay**-pul
breakfast	**het ontbijt**	het ont-**baiyt**
lunch	**de lunch**	duh lernsh
dinner	**het diner**	het dee-**nay**
main course	**het hoofdgerecht**	het **hoaft**-ghuh-rekht
starter, first course	**het voorgerecht**	het **vohr**-ghuh-rekht
dessert	**het nagerecht**	het **naa**-ghuh-rekht
rare	**rare**	'rare'
medium	**medium**	'medium'
well done	**doorbakken**	dohr-**bah**-kuh

Days

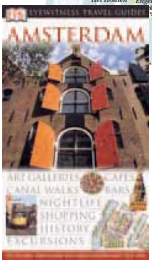
Monday	**maandag**	**maan**-dahgh
Tuesday	**dinsdag**	**dins**-dahgh
Wednesday	**woensdag**	**vhoons**-dahgh
Thursday	**donderdag**	**donder**-dahgh
Friday	**vrijdag**	**vraiy**-dahgh
Saturday	**zaterdag**	**zaater**-dahgh
Sunday	**zondag**	**zon**-dahgh

DK EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

AMSTERDAM

POCKET MAP & GUIDE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR A PERFECT DAY OUT



80-PAGE GUIDE TO AMSTERDAM'S MAJOR SIGHTS

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DETAILED PULL-OUT MAP

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WHERE TO EAT, DRINK AND SHOP IN EACH AREA

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PERFECT COMPANION TO THE EYEWITNESS TRAVEL GUIDE

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